

EDUCATION — UNIVERSITY

1998

JAN. — MARCH

# Technikon probe results released

(54)

*Sowetan 5/1/98*

**By Victor Mecoamere**

THE findings of an investigation into the conduct of suspended Vaal Triangle Technikon rector Professor Aubrey Mokadi are to be handed to the technikon's Council chairman Dr Chrizan van Eeden today. The investigation was launched following complaints by staff and students.

Van Eeden told *Sowetan* yesterday that the investigator, Advocate Lionel Lapidos, was supposed to have concluded the probe by December 12.

"The bulk of the investigation was supposed to have been done by December 12, but we expect to have fresh information by Monday after I have met with the technikon's legal representatives," said Van Eeden.

"It is ideal to release the findings of the investigations before the start of the academic year which starts around January 20."

Mr Godfrey Shisana, executive member of the National Union of

Technikon Employees of South Africa, yesterday confirmed the release of the report. His organisation had called for Mokadi's suspension.

The National Health and Allied Workers Union and the South African Students Congress branches at the technikon had both opposed the rector's suspension.

Mokadi was in the United States on official business when the technikon's council decided to suspend him on full pay pending the outcome of an investigation into the allegations made by staff and students.

Allegations against Mokadi included intimidation of union members and staff, the use of cellular phones and cars by junior staff members and the involvement of the rector's family members in technikon affairs.

Mokadi said this week he was concerned that he was suspended in absentia, that he was not approached for comment and he was still in the dark about the reasons for his suspension.

# Vaal technikon rector complains to human rights body, public protector over suspension

Star 5/1/98 (54)

By EDDIE JAVIYA

Vaal Technikon rector Professor Aubrey Mokadi has complained to the Human Rights Commission and the office of the public protector about his suspension by the technikon's council in October.

Mokadi said he has written to the public protector and the HRC because his rights had been violated and that the investigations by the protector's office would save the technikon money.

"The campus has had racial clashes between black and white students and this ongoing saga might further threaten the fragile peace which is currently prevailing," he said.

Council chairman Chri-zaane van Eeden said yesterday that an investigation by advocate L Lapidos was almost complete and the institution would release the findings shortly. "We must resolve this matter as soon as possible," she said. "We need

to concentrate on education.

Education Minister Sibuiso Bengu, who met with Van Eeden and her deputy chairman, Shirley Tsepetsi Bengu, expressed concern about the events leading to Mokadi's sus-

## “ Decision taken in the best interest of the campus”

pension and urged them to resolve the matter timeously and use cost-effective options.

"From the meeting it became clear that no opportunity was given to Mokadi to provide reasons as to why his suspension would be inappropriate,"

Bengu said in a letter to the council.

The South African Communist Party has called for a commission of inquiry to look into the politics of the technikon and the involvement of influential outsiders.

The South African Students Congress (Sasco), which has supported the call for a commission of inquiry, has described as "untrue and misleading" suggestions that students had made disparaging allegations against Mokadi.

"Mokadi's accusers cannot investigate him," Sasco secretary Tsepe Nyewe said.

Van Eeden said it was during the exams that the serious nature of the allegations and the volatility of the campus prompted the council to suspend Mokadi.

"The decision was taken in the best interests of the campus with no charges being made against him at the moment and we still regard him highly."



# UWC students warn of unrest over ban

STAFF REPORTER

Student leaders at the University of the Western Cape have warned of possible unrest on the campus after a decision by management to exclude students who fail to pay fees.

(54)

At a press conference today, Student Representative Council president Goodenough Kodwa said students were well aware of the university's desperate financial situation and wanted to ease the situation through a special Masakhane campaign.

But no student should be excluded on financial grounds, he said.

The university is owed R60-million in unpaid fees. The SRC has asked students to return to campus on January 20 for a meeting on their Right to Learn campaign.

ARG 7/1/98

# TRC's 11th-hour olive branch to PW

## Testify and we'll ask Kahn to drop charges, says Boraine

DENNIS CAVERNELLS

STAFF REPORTER

The Truth Commission has extended an olive branch to former state president P W Botha, saying it will ask Attorney-General Frank Kahn to withdraw criminal charges if he testifies.

Mr Botha, 81, to appear in the George Regional Court for failing to testify. "Mr Botha has been given enough opportunity to co-operate with the TRC. The commission holds no animosity towards (Mr Botha), but we believe his experiences as minister of defence, as prime minister and as state president and the information he could give us, is vital for us to fulfil our mandate."

"Even at this 11th hour I would appeal to Mr Botha to change his mind and appear before the commission. If he does not, the law must take its course ... no one is above the law."

undertaking from his legal advisers that he will appear." Police director Hans Meiring said yesterday he had served the summons on Mr Botha, who had accepted it at his Wilderness home.

"It is vital that we establish the rule of law in South Africa. One of the problems of the past which is still with us is that people regard themselves as above the law," said Mr Omar.

TRC deputy chairman Alex Boraine announced the offer at a press conference after Mr Kahn ruled that a summons be served on

Dr Boraine said he would write to Mr Botha's lawyers, "indicating to them that I have made this 11th-hour appeal in the hope that he will listen to what I believe is reasonable."

Justice Minister Dullah Omar said Mr Kahn's decision to prosecute Mr Botha "must be respected and accepted by all".

He said Mr Botha's guilt would be decided by the court, "and I am confident that the court will take into account all relevant facts, including the seriousness of the matter as well as the personal circumstances of Mr Botha, especially his age and his state of health."

# Repeat row on fees threatens to disrupt new UWC term

CAROL CAMPBELL

SPECIAL WRITER

A repetition of the violence and student protests on the University of the Western Cape campus in 1996 could hamper the start of the new academic year. Student leaders are angry at the

university administration's threats to exclude those who do not pay their fees, the issue that brought the campus to a standstill two years ago.

Yesterday student president Ncediso Goodenough Kodwa said students owed the university R60-million, but this figure could have been reduced to about

January 20 to discuss the problem. "We have suggested a Masakhane campaign on campus which would be used to raise money," Mr Kodwa said.

Student Representative Council secretary-general Wanga Sigila said the university could create a "debt collection department" which could verify students' financial status and assess if they deserved aid.

AR 4 8/11/98  
54

AR 4 8/11/98

Students have called a meeting on

chancellor Desmond Tutu, who said he was willing to lend his name to help them raise money.

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

Students have also met UWC

# Fears of more campus turmoil

(54)

Tertiary institutions totter under huge student debts and financial uncertainty

Star 12/1/98  
By EDWIN MAZOU

National student debt of between R300-million and R500-million, and the Government's failure to pump adequate resources into a loan scheme before the start of this academic year, will plunge tertiary institutions into turmoil, several academics have warned.

Alarm bells are already ringing, a month before most universities and technikons open. Senior academics predict a repeat of the problems which marked the opening of tertiary institutions last year.

The South African Students Congress has warned of nationwide protests if any student is turned away for not paying fees.

Chairman of Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDI), Professor Cecil Abrahamse, said the prospects did not look good. The heads of 17 HDI institutions had met Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu in November to discuss the seriousness of the situation.

"We are expecting February to be very troublesome at many campuses," he said.

University of the Witwatersrand deputy vice-chancellor (finance) Professor Alan Kemp said students owed the institution R15-million, but the figure was expected to drop considerably when students registered.

A University of Zululand spokesman said registered students owed the institution R32-million, while the total outstanding debt was R60 million. "We cannot continue like this anymore. Students not settling their debts will not be allowed to reg-

ister this year," he warned.

University of Fort Hare vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzama said students owed R14-million before 1997 and R10-million for last year.

"Last year we shut the university down and made it clear to students and parents that we would not reopen unless they paid their fees," he said.

University of Natal vice-chancellor Professor Brenda Gourley, whose institution is owed R7,4-million for last year, said retrenchments and restructuring had occurred because of financial constraints. "I can't believe we have not been told what the financial aid allocations will be this year," she said.

Rand Afrikaans University is owed R3-million in unpaid fees, but expects to recoup at least 80% of the sum when students re-register this year.

Rhodes University deputy vice-chancellor Professor Michael Smout said that though he did not know the exact amount, student debts were "negligible".

Nasima Badsha, deputy director-general in charge of higher education in the Department of Education, said figures for subsidies and student financial aid could be finalised only after the Finance Minister had made his Budget speech. In future, a three-year budget would be planned so universities could plan in advance.

Bengu said it was agreed at the ANC national conference in Mafikeng last month that there could be no free education at tertiary level.

► Bundy's vision  
Page 2

# Wits vice-chancellor Bundy maps out his vision of a vibrant future to consolidate higher education for all

By Edwin Maidu

One week after officially taking over the reins as vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Colin Bundy said his immediate challenges included forging campus unity and tapping the vast academic talent to produce excellent results among students.

Bundy also spoke at the weekend of the enormous challenges facing higher education, and said academics were hoping the Government would devise a system which enabled

tertiary institutions to draw up budgets without the spectre of uncertainty or disruptions.

Bundy said he wanted to work with all constituencies at Wits to promote unity: "I hope this is the year that Wits will consolidate its strengths, assets and excellence and move away from divisive issues which have troubled the university in recent years."

The soft-spoken historian with degrees from Wits, Oxford and Natal said he was fortunate that the Forum for Accelerated Transformation had laid a solid

foundation for unity on campus, there was now a new council accepted as legitimate, and a new mission statement for Wits was to be unveiled shortly.

However, the problem of student finance, with Wits owed about R15-million in fees, was a major concern.

Bundy said the establishment of a financing scheme for needy students was essential. He added that problems over funding could not be resolved on a piecemeal basis and that it was necessary to determine the size of the educational system,

its projected growth and, among other issues, whether institutions would receive more for producing technology and science graduates.

"We still do not know how many needy students there are in the country. A national student fund that correlates with the issues raised is needed."

While hoping for swift action and strong leadership from the Government, Bundy said he hoped to lead from the front-line at Wits.

He did not want to run the show from his spacious

eleventh floor office in Senate House. Instead, he said, he planned to be accessible and to meet as many groups as possible on campus in an attempt to encourage a positive mood.

"One of the biggest challenges facing Wits, and other institutions throughout the country, is to begin recruiting and retaining a new generation of academics, especially younger and black people," he said.

"The challenge to us is to make graduates' experience so rich that they choose to stay on

after graduating," he said.

Before filling the Wits hot seat vacated by Professor Robert Charlton, Bundy was vice-rector of the University of the Western Cape, where he saw the institution double in size and make considerable progress.

His thoughts on the 1997 matric results? "Four decades of Bantu education were a systematic assault on black people, and it also damaged a culture of learning."

"It is not surprising that schools have not fixed the problems in three years."



# Academics warn of renewed turmoil

## *Students owe up to R500-m*

ARG 12/1/98

(54)

### ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

**Johannesburg – National student debt of between R300-million and R500-million, and the Government's failure to pump adequate resources into a loan scheme before the start of this academic year, will plunge tertiary institutions into turmoil, academics have warned.**

Alarm bells are already ringing – a month before most universities and technikons open – with several senior academics predicting a repetition of the troubles which marked the opening of tertiary institutions around the country last year. Universities and technikons had a troubled start last year because there was no certainty on the extent of funding they would receive.

Earlier this month, the South African Students Congress (Sasco) warned of nationwide protests if any student was turned away for not paying fees.

The chairman of the Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDI), Cecil Abrahamse, said the prospects did not look good.

Unpaid student fees would contribute to problems again this year. Many students at HDIs were from poor backgrounds and ended up in a

debt trap because after they settled their old debts, they then had to deal with current ones.

As a result, universities and technikons were owed between R300-million and R500-million.

Professor Abrahamse said the heads of 17 HDI institutions met Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu in November to discuss the seriousness of the situation. "We are expecting February to be very troublesome at many campuses," he said.

Last year the Government promised R300-million in financial aid to students, but ended up providing only R200-million, with the balance coming from donors.

Professor Abrahamse said the fact that there was no announcement yet on this year's figures meant that institutions were unable to finalise their budgets.

University of Witwatersrand Deputy Vice-Chancellor (finance) Alan Kemp said students owed the institution R15-million.

A University of Zululand spokesman said current students owed the institution R32-million while the total outstanding debt was R60-million. "We cannot continue like this anymore. Students not settling their debts will not be allowed to register this year," he warned.

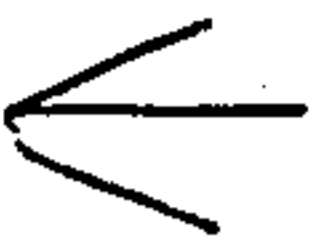
University of Cape Town spokesman Helen Zille said that although the university had received the same subsidy as last year, it was conducting an overall audit of its programmes.

Peninsula Technikon rector Brian Figaji said the financial resources the Government was prepared to pump into education was a potential problem, but they had heard nothing yet.

University of Fort Hare vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzamane said students were R14-million in arrears before 1997 and R10-million for last year. "Last year we shut the university down and made it clear to students and parents that we would not reopen unless they paid their fees," he said.

Nasima Bacha, Deputy Director-General in charge of higher education in the Department of Education, said subsidy figures and the amount to be allocated for student financial aid could be finalised only after Finance Minister Trevor Manuel made his Budget speech.

Dr Bengu said it was agreed at the African National Congress national conference in Mafikeng last month that there could be no free education at tertiary level. "It is unaffordable and we simply cannot offer free education. Students have to pay for their education," he said.



# Africa's obsolete universities

ET 12/1/98 (54)

PETER DODDS

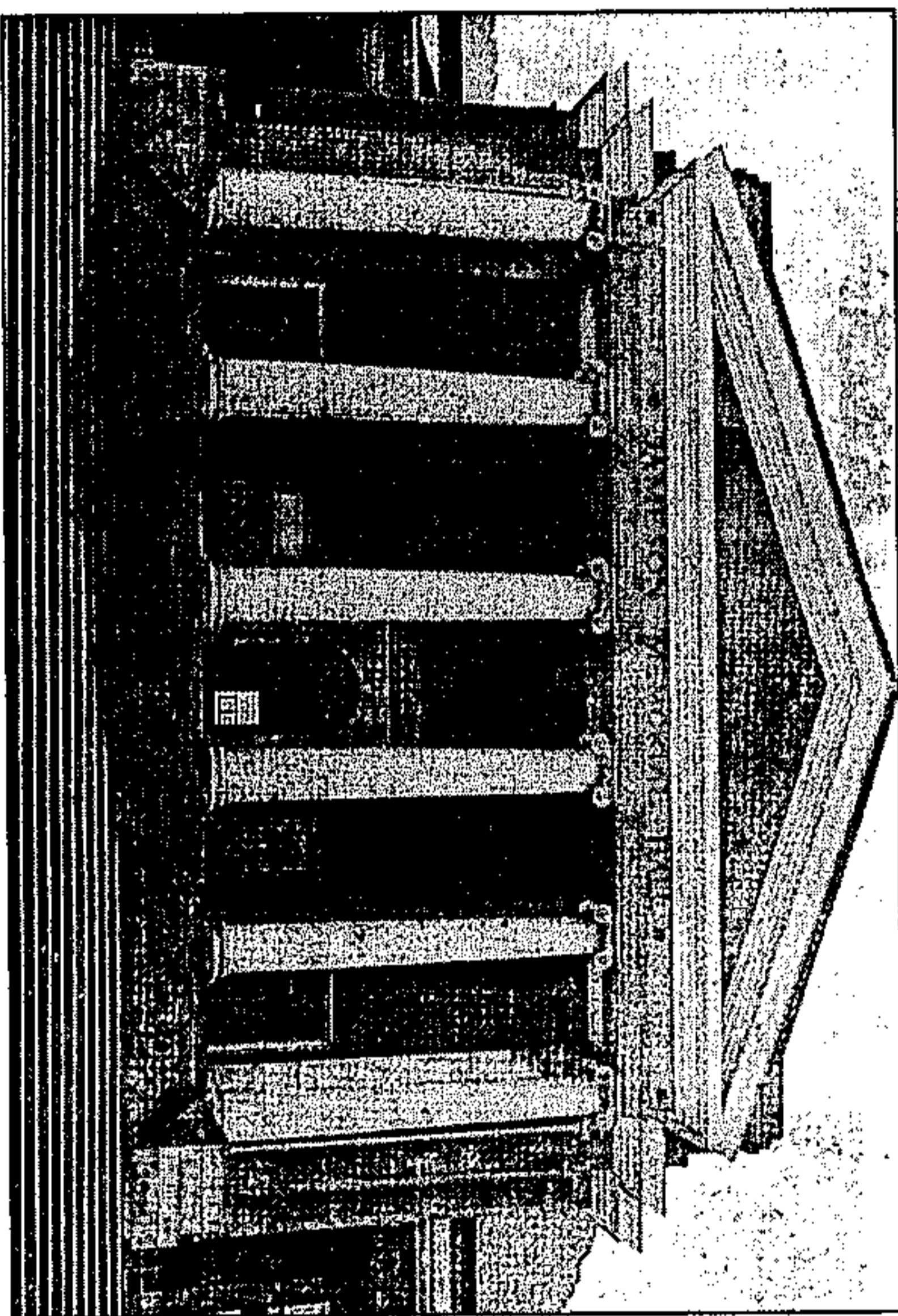
**I**N 1965 the government of Kenya took a courageous and imaginative step to place its programme of "localisation" (which was the chosen term) of the tertiary education sector on a sound footing.

In collaboration with senior expatriate officials still remaining in the department of education it compiled an order of precedence for educational qualifications. The list, when it was completed was headed by universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Yale, etc.

From that pinnacle, it worked downwards through the institutions of learning providing a yardstick against which it was possible, quickly and simply, to determine the actual educational merits of, for example, a BA issued by the University of Imhambane or the World Educational Technikon of Medellin, and so on.

The courage involved in compiling the list was the sure knowledge that it would cause considerable irritation and frustration to many Kenyan nationals who, aided and funded by First World countries, had roamed the globe in search of tertiary qualifications. The more qualifications the better and the bigger the passport into some elegant employment in some multi-national corporation.

Many of these "educational" establishments raised false hopes, even duped their students who, on returning home, found their handful of certificates to be quite worthless, Bachelor degrees equivalent to "O" levels and doctorates hardly in touch with "A" levels, in subjects ranging from air-



**HIGHER LEARNING:** Does UCT (above) fulfill Africa's tertiary education needs?

craft engineering to TV broadcasting.

The quest for university qualifications, verging on the obsessive, had, in that decade a simple rationale: a university education yielded sound economic returns, stimulating parents to make great sacrifices to see their children capped and gowned. The momentum of that demand led to the mushroom growth of universities and other institutions of tertiary education, not only in Kenya, but Africa generally.

Thirty years later the merit of Kenya's

Speaking at a conference on higher education in Dakar, Senegal, Mayor said African higher education systems are now "irrelevant and obsolete" and must be changed radically if they are to meet the challenges which confront the continent.

Another commentator on the phenomenon, Mr John Mula, writing in the Weekly Review of Kenya, observed that the outcome of this massive demand for higher education and the mushroom growth of universities led to the emergence of "structures that purport to be institutions of higher learning but which are, in reality, empty shells that cannot do more than keep students around for four or more years, confer degrees on them and usher them into a rapidly changing economic environment in which they lack the skills to actively participate".

Mula also commented that "managers of the education system have never really considered what it is they expect universities to accomplish and how". That situation is exacerbated by the reality that so many degrees feature at the bottom end of the table of precedence, simply pieces of paper covering nothing of substance.

The original concept of a university, *universitas magistrorum et scholarium*, no longer has relevance in Africa, as Mayor points out, and in those institutions that do exist books, in Mula's words, are an "endangered species". Lecturers are poorly paid and inadequately equipped for the task of teaching youngsters hungry to learn. In an attempt to slow the decline, US universities have been asked to assist by contributing books for empty libraries and electronic equipment for general use.

There is little disagreement that the original purposes of higher learning, the stretching of the intellect and a more refined appreciation of life and the world, have been consigned to history. Today tertiary qualifications represent steps up the ladder of competition for employment, the number of steps determined by the quality of the certificates.

That is the context in which to view any measures to resuscitate Africa's universities or retain a grip on the *status quo*, which would be the case in South Africa.

There is another harsh political decision which precedes these considerations and that is the question of whether the national totem pole should be retained at all. Does every country need its own university?

Regions currently share economic decisions and peace-keeping. What is difficult about sharing educational facilities? An institution with a strong medical discipline (for example) should be preserved, a university which simply turns out humanities graduates can be closed and the buildings put to better use.

The future expenditure of public funds on higher education should be governed by a measurement of the economically competitive needs of a national labour reservoir of suitable skills, the disciplines, the numbers and the quality, not simply because, like mountains, the institutions are there.

There is no reason why this more pragmatic approach should spell the end of learning for the sake of learning. Private schools have existed for centuries and private universities are not out of reach. Obsolete universities can be leased, their life renewed.

# Bleak year for varsities

**TROYE LUND**  
EDUCATION WRITER

BD 13/1/98

THE country's tertiary institutions are facing a financially bleak year.

While students plan mass action if they are excluded because they have not paid their fees, the institutions still have no idea of the size of the subsidies they will get from the government this year.

Students nationwide owe universities, colleges and technikons between R300 and R500 million.

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) is owed R60m by about 7 000 students who are registered at the university as well as an unaccounted for group that has left the university.

Student bodies have said they will act if they are not allowed to register because of the unpaid fees.

Academics predict a repeat of the troubles that marked the opening of tertiary institutions countrywide last year.

Earlier this month the South African Students Congress warned of nationwide protests if any stu-

□ Turn to Page 3

# Trouble brewing over unpaid fees

CT 13/1/98  
□ From Page 1

dent was turned away for not paying fees — they claim that exclusion for financial reasons will perpetuate the privileged education system that has always existed in South Africa.

UWC rector and chairman of the Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDI) Professor Cecil Abrahams said the prospects did not look good.

Unpaid student fees would contribute to problems again this year, he said, adding that many students at HDIs were poor and ended up in a debt trap because they had to deal with current debts after they had settled old ones.

But Abrahams said that at UWC students who had not paid the minimum amounts of the money they owed would simply not be registered this year.

"The bottom line is that the university has supported students for many years, but it is now unable to finance students who do not pay," he said, adding that students who owed more than R10 000 would have to come up with 40% before they were allowed to register.

A letter had been sent to all students stating how much they owed and how much they would have to pay before they were allowed to register.

Abrahams said that although universities received donations and bursaries, private donors preferred students who achieved the best results to benefit from this help.

"We are sympathetic to students who are in desperate financial situations. But the truth is that most of the 7 000 students who had not paid by the end of last year were those who were not doing well and many have taken far longer than they should to get through," he said.

He suggested that the SRC urge students to approach companies and organisations themselves to get help.

"If this debt continues or gets worse, the university will close," he said.

Abrahams said the heads of 17 HDI institutions had met Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu in November to discuss the seriousness of the situation.

However, it was agreed at the ANC national conference in Mafikeng last month that there could be no free education at tertiary level and Bengu was resolute.

Last year the government promised R300m in financial aid to students, but ended up paying only R200m. The balance came from donors.

Abrahams said that because there had been no announcement yet on this year's figures institutions were unable to finalise their budgets.

Ms Nasima Bacha, deputy director-general in charge of higher education in the Department of Education, said subsidy figures and the amount to be allocated for student financial aid could only be finalised after Finance Minister Mr Trevor Manuel had made his Budget speech.

She said student debt was a "serious problem that required a multi-pronged approach and not a single solution".

# SRC leader owes UWC R20 70

ET 13/1/98

(54)

## TROYE LUND

THE chairperson of the University of the Western Cape's Student Representative Council owes the university R20 738 in fees for his three-year Bachelor of Arts degree.

Mr Goodenough Kodwa, 27, completed his degree last year. He is one of about 7 000 students who owe R60 million to UWC and who say they are unable to pay.

"I have decided not to do my honours because of the debt," he said.

Kodwa has called a mass meeting for next week at which students are to decide how they may stop the university from excluding students on financial grounds.

A series of talks with the university management last year ended in dispute. Later the university sent all student debtors a letter demanding that they pay up or get out.

"Registration at the university will be refused in 1998 if you fail to pay the required minimum contribution," the letter said.

"We trust that you appreciate the extremity of our financial situation and look forward to prompt settlement of your account."

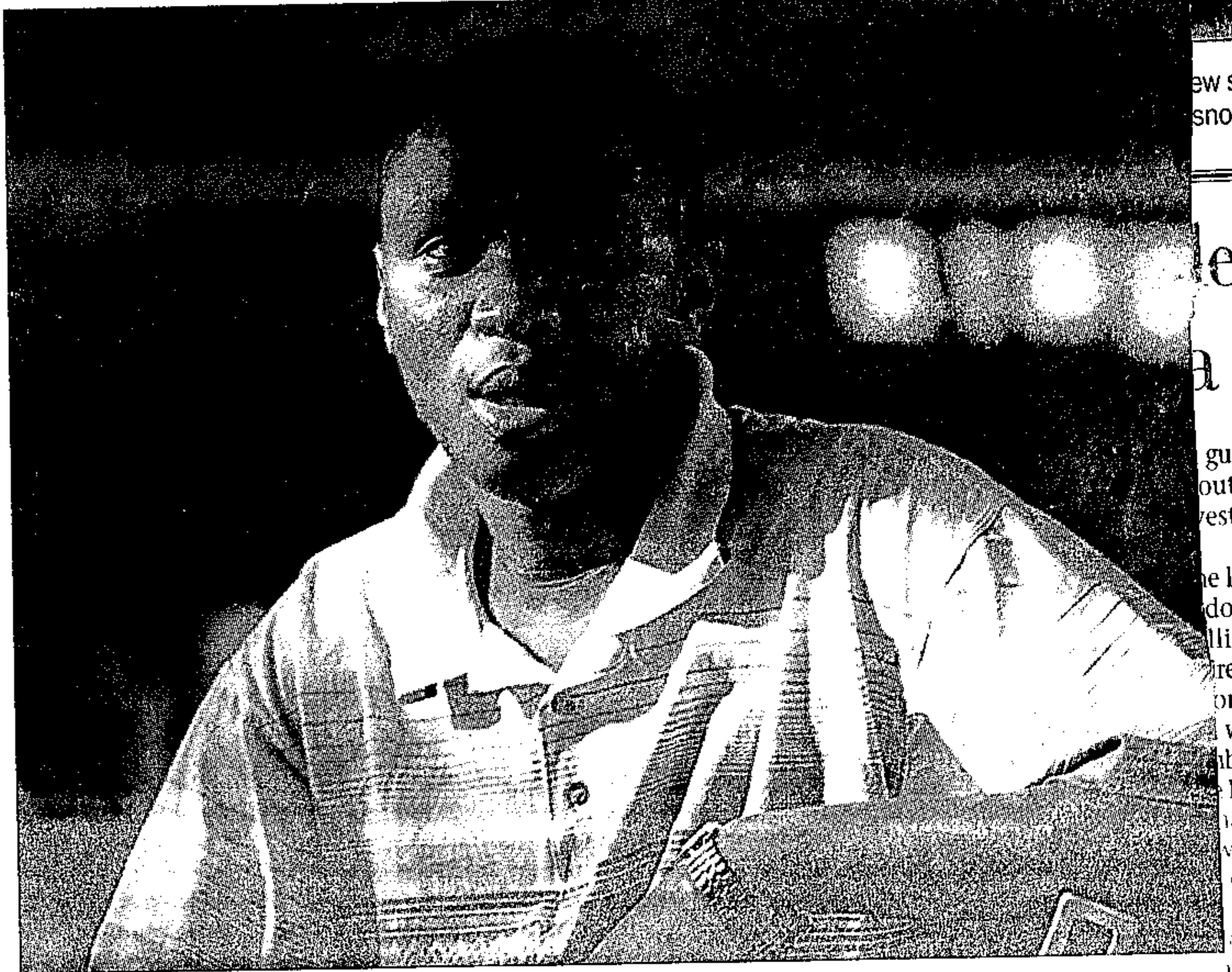
Kodwa said it was not free education for which he was fighting.

"A clear and workable system has to be put in place to determine which of the students cannot afford the fees and how much each of them can pay, be it three quarters of the fees, one quarter, R200 or R400," he said.

"Students should pay what they can. Each case must be looked at on merit."

The problem of debt would not be solved by excluding students but by creative solutions, better management, fundraising, appeals to donors and resurrecting the debt-collecting system, Kodwa said.

"There are students who can pay but do not. They do things like submitting the bank statements of pensioners instead of those of their parents who are managers and can pay.



**WON'T PAY:** Goodenough Kodwa, Student Representative Council chairperson at UWC, owes the university R20 738 in outstanding fees.

PICTURE: GAC news

"What will excluding debtors from university achieve? The university will not recover the money owed if all the debtors leave and some owe more than R30 000. Students who cannot pay are not an imagined group — they are a reality."

Kodwa's mother, a domestic worker, died last year, leaving Kodwa without anyone to turn to for money.

While he was studying for a BA, he had a bursary that met his tuition fees of R6 000 a year.

However, the bursary did not cover his residence fees of R7 400 a year, nor the R4 500 charged since 1996 for food.

"I have been paying off as I can,

even if it is R100 or R50."

Kodwa has been told to pay R10 000 of his debt before registration opens at the end of the month.

Asked how he supported himself, he said: "A man has his means to find money. Certain friends and distant relatives understand.

"I have not had time to get a casual job because my work on the SRC has taken so much time. I left the university only on December 27. I am certainly trying to find a job now and have been going for interviews.

"I am politically committed to this fees crisis and want to see it through to the end — then I will use my qualifications to find work."

The university had a responsibility to adhere to its mission statement and help marginalised students, Kodwa said. The SRC was committed to negotiating with the university management, but if nothing came of the talks, mass action would have to be taken.

"We cannot perpetuate the privileged system that educates only those with money," Kodwa said.

"No one wants to see UWC go up in flames. Demonstrations would destroy the university's image among investors — but mass action may be our only last resort."

The students will decide what action to take at the mass meeting next week.

# Universities to crack down on defaulters

By Victor Mecoamere and Nthabi Moreosele

**U**NIVERSITIES have threatened to crack down on students who owe them millions of rands in tuition and accommodation fees.

Most of these institutions are also facing closure because student fees and subsidies - which have been drastically reduced - were their main source of income.

The universities of Port Elizabeth, Witwatersrand, Fort Hare, Zululand, Natal, Pretoria, Cape Town, Transkei, North West and Rand Afrikaans University are among South African

tertiary institutions that are collectively owed about R500 million in student fees.

Cape Town and Wits University are owed R15 million, student debts at Pretoria University stood at R18,7 million on Monday, Natal University's outstanding student debt is R7,4 million, while Unira is owed R17,8 million, UPE R2 million and RAU R3 million.

The highest amounts owed were at the University of Zululand, about R60 million, and Fort Hare University, R24 million.

To recover the outstanding fees, the universities have decided not to allow students who owe fees to gradu-

ate. They will also stop them from registering and will set debt-collection agencies after them.

Mr Ranko Molefe, the University of North West spokesman, which is owed R4 million, said part of this amount would be recovered from the owing students' bursaries.

## Supported measures

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's adviser, Mr Thami Mseleku, said Bengu supported the universities' institution of the debt-collection measures as long as they did not affect students who came from disadvantaged backgrounds and deserved financial aid. South African Students Congress

president Mr Jacob Mamabolo said setting debt-collection agencies after owing students was a futile exercise.

"How do these universities expect students who may not yet be employed to pay them back?"

Mamabolo reiterated his organisation's warning of nationwide protests in the event of action being taken against students who owe the universities.

"We will do all we can, including protests, to ensure that no student is made a victim of financial exclusion because what we really need is for the education and finance ministries to commit themselves to a redress fund." On the other hand, the South

African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association (Sauvca) has called for the improvement of existing student financial aid schemes.

"Subsidies and student fees were the main source of income for tertiary institutions," said Sauvca's acting chief executive officer, Professor Jos Grobelaar.

"We urge the Government and the donor community at large, including South African business organisations, to help strengthen existing student financial aid schemes.

"This could alleviate the problem because it should be understood that some of the students are financially disadvantaged," said Grobelaar.

*Sauvca 16/1/98*

*(54)*

# Money squabbles sour learning

## Financial burden should be shared, argues UWC rector

PRG 16/1/98

(52)

The financial plight of historically disadvantaged tertiary institutions will once more be brought to the fore as thousands of matriculants and returning students from very poor backgrounds try to register at these institutions for the 1998 academic year.

And the University of the Western Cape will be no exception. The problem is a complex and multi-faceted one with the most pressing issues being:

- A society left impoverished by the apartheid system.
- The inability of students from such backgrounds to pay their way through university.
- The expectations that a post-apartheid South Africa indeed would afford the previously marginalised masses the opportunity to educate themselves.
- The inability of financially burdened historically disadvantaged institutions to financially help these students.
- The reluctance on the part of the historically advantaged institutions, with large

## INSIDE STORY

AS THE ANNUAL STRUGGLE BY MATRICULANTS TO ENTER UNIVERSITY BEGINS, UWC RECTOR AND VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR CECIL ABRAHAMS EXAMINES THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS THEY FACE

apartheid years, in spite of opposition from the government, from an ethnic institution to become the first truly national university reflecting the demographics of our society.

To achieve this end, the university implemented an open admissions policy because we were fully aware of the grave disparities in our segregated education system which greatly disadvantaged black pupils and left them ill prepared for a university education.

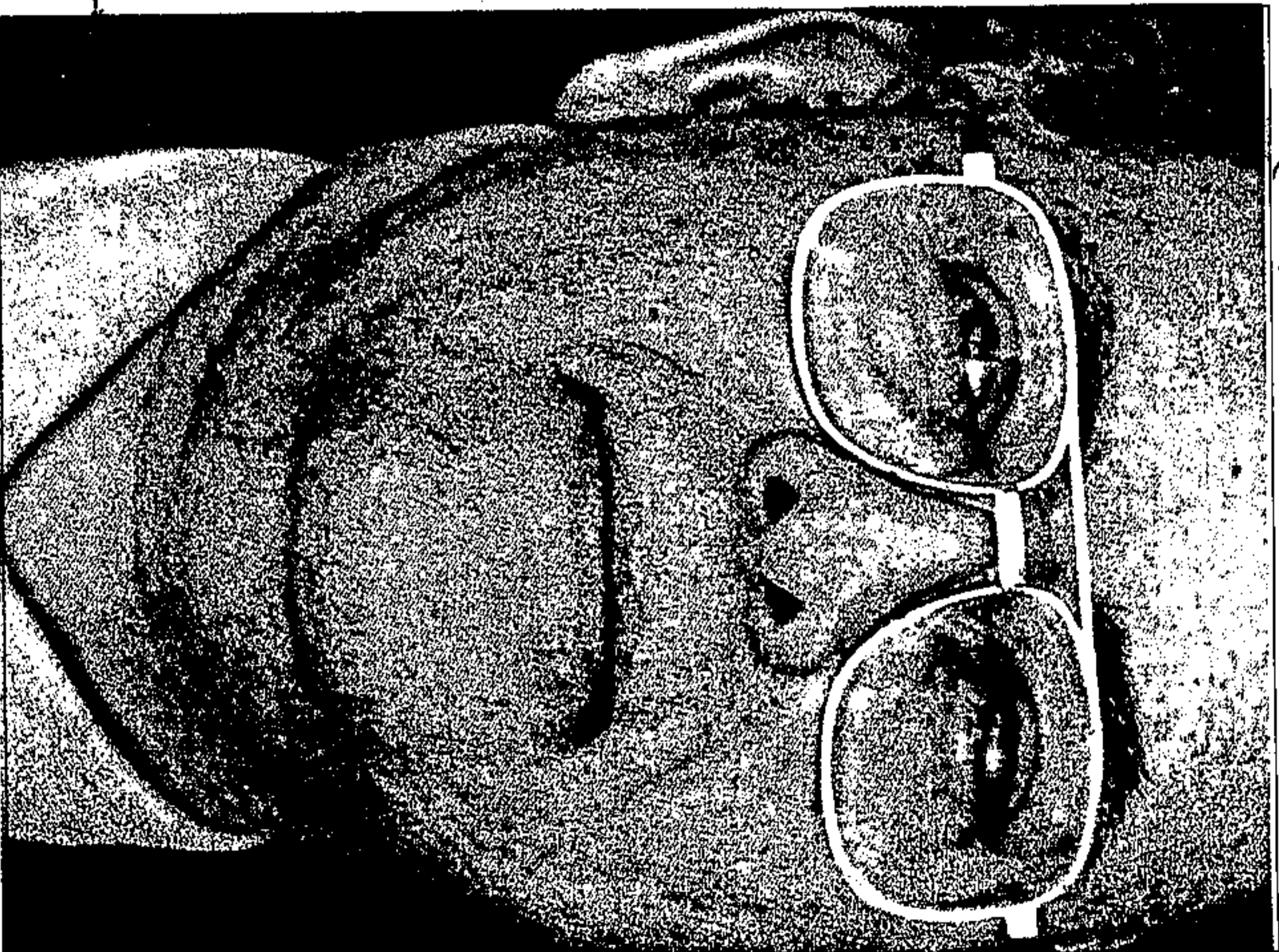
With limited resources, UWC embarked on the development of bridging mechanisms and academic development programmes in an effort to help those students who were inadequately schooled.

By breaking out of its ethnic label, the university fulfilled an obligation to our society by refusing to be part of a system that perpetuated inequality and answered to its social conscience for equity. The price we paid, however, was severe.

The National Party government introduced punitive measures through which our institution received less funding. We accepted students who were in dire need of financial aid and whose parents, because they had been impoverished by the apartheid system, could not help adequately.

Since 1990, however, with the unbanning of liberation organisations and the release of political prisoners which marked the beginning of the end for the apartheid system, the open admissions policy has been dropped and academic merit is the only criterion according to which students are accepted.

This was done in the firm belief that in an open society, and with everybody professing apartheid to be the evil and unjust system it was, the social conscience of the historically advantaged institutions would likewise accept that they had a responsibility towards those who received their schooling through the highly flawed segregated education system and who had been severely impover-



Financial plight UWC's Cecil Abrahams - 'Desperate measures are needed to avert a major crisis'

ished by an unjust social order. But the conviction that all tertiary institutions should share the responsibility of assisting needy students was not embraced. In our region, we remain the one institution with the most needy students in our system.

The financial plight of our university is further exacerbated by the present Government's inability to afford free tertiary education due to major pressures on the economy,

ated. An educated society is a stable society.

The Government's funding formula, according to which universities are subsidised, has not changed since 1994 and, therefore, we still are being funded according to the same formula that prevailed under the years of apartheid.

The historically black universities were specifically created to keep blacks out of the white universities and were set up to train only the proverbial 'teachers and preachers'.

They were not established to train black scientists, engineers or mathematicians, while in accordance with the Government's funding formula, a university received more than twice the usual subsidy for a science student than for any other.

These money-generating science students inevitably were lost to the better funded white institutions. Ironically, this is still the case and a more favourable funding formula that would help the historically disadvantaged universities seems unlikely in the short-term. The present schemes whereby students are helped financially are not adequate to cover the costs of the university.

Even with the best will in the world, the university cannot be expected to carry this financial burden alone. The timber is creaking under the load and desperate measures are needed to avert a major crisis.

It is a problem that has to be addressed at a national level. Our shrinking financial resources have been stretched to the limit and we are no longer in a position to continue offering the type of assistance that, in essence, is the responsibility of the Government.

April 1994, however, has changed the political playing field and has made this a responsibility to be shared by all role players.

To this end, it would be prudent for Minister of Education Shibusiso Bengu to call a national summit at which representatives from all universities, the Government, the business sector, as well as our student structures, can jointly debate and try to resolve the issue of student debt.

It should not be left to institutions to fight prolonged and running battles with students over financial exclusions at the expense of its academic programmes for which it is first and foremost responsible.

Should we not be thinking of introducing a national loan scheme that would afford students the opportunity of completing their studies and then have them repay that debt when they enter the workforce? This strategy would create a larger black middle class with all the advantages that accompanies it.

## GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

GET THE NOKIA 3110



LIMITED STOCKS

# Foreigners are using locals as guinea pigs

By BENITA VAN EYSEN

(54)  
~~54~~  
Foreign pharmaceutical companies are flocking to South Africa and using locals to test new drugs.

Eager to capitalise on the combination of the weak rand and the availability of good researchers locally, these companies stand to obtain results on the cheap.

South African research institutes have welcomed the move.

The prevalence of a range of disease strains, willing healthy volunteers for trials and expert testing facilities have also contributed to the interest.

Experts say this field of research, if managed properly, could prove enormously

lucrative, not only for the medical fraternity, but also for the "patients" used.

"At universities we do these studies to survive financially," says Professor Bernhardt Meyer of the University of the Free State.

Clinical trials have been conducted locally for a number of years, but with an increase in contract research of this nature, the earning potential of the healthy students, who accept payment for such tests, could increase dramatically.

Last year alone, the university used an estimated 1 000 healthy student volunteers in various drug trials.

The Medicines Control Council has reported an increase in the number of applications to conduct trials locally.

On average, only 10% of about 220 applications are rejected. Of those approved, individual trials using from 20 to 1 000 or more patients per run are instituted.

"I can think of quite a few advocates and government ministers who have financed themselves and their studies this way," says Meyer.

Strict guidelines and precautions are in place in this field of research to prevent unethical practices.

Research of this nature in South Africa is of considerable significance to universities as they are at the cutting edge of drug development, says Dr Beverley Cowper, medical director at a pharmaceutical company.

■ See Page 5

Star 17/1/98

# Colleges close doors to new aspirant teachers

(54)

CP 18/1/98

A BUDGET crisis in Mpumalanga's education department means that none of the province's four teachers' training colleges will be accepting new students when they open their doors on February 2, African Eye News Service reports

The move, described by the department as regrettable but essential, is the first in a series of initiatives aimed at "down-scaling" the department's financial obligations.

The initiatives were designed to retain as many qualified teachers as possible, including those on temporary contracts, education spokesperson Peter Maminza said.

Maminza confirmed college officials had been ordered to turn away all expected applicants, but declined to say what would happen to the lecturers who usually

tutored first-year students.

"The decision to scrap intakes at the colleges for the 1998 academic year was taken at a departmental workshop last week," he said. "We basically had two choices: either retrench all temporary teachers or cut expenses at the colleges.

"There was complete consensus that the retrenchment of temporary teachers was a non-starter and that there is already an oversupply of qualified teachers."

Maminza said staff had not been told about the decision. The department would brief all affected parties next week when its MEC made a public statement.

However, he said a circular had been sent out last year warning enrolment at all four colleges might be suspended, and that accommodation grants for students living in hostels might be reviewed. - Sapa



# Turbulent Charlton era ends quietly and without fuss

Robert Charlton was the man to hold things together at Wits University when it was needed, writes David Williams

(54) 05/19/1988

PROF Robert Charlton retired in December as vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand. As retirements go, it was quieter than most — and that is just how Charlton would have liked it.

Unlike some other university principals of his era, he was not driven from office by the mob, forced by his colleagues to take early retirement or tempted to flee back to scholarly work. He handed over without fuss to his successor, Prof Colin Bundy.

The stresses were considerable. Charlton's term of office coincided with the most turbulent and unstable period in the history of SA's tertiary education. In the mid-1980s the apartheid regime was losing its grip and most established institutions were targets of civil unrest and sharp intellectual questioning. The English-medium liberal universities were especially vulnerable. It was an ironic paradox that the universities which fought longest and hardest against apartheid should appear to be the first victims of its overthrow.

Charlton understood it very

well. He was able to work through the paradox because he is a liberal conservative. Liberal, in that he believes the freedom of the scholar depends on broader freedoms which require constant vigilance and often unfashionable defence. Conservative, in that he understands nothing is possible without order and sound administration. He prefers to be convinced that change will bring improvement, before embracing it.

The vice-chancellorship has for many years been a political position, requiring a cool head and fine judgment. It was an especially lonely job, too, in the early 1990s. The legitimacy of the old National Party government had all but drained away, but the new elite from the African National Congress was not yet restrained by the restraining vacuum many loud and angry voices were raised, some fearful of change and others desperate to precipitate it. The tension was especially visible at universities, which are lightning conductors for great stresses and fault lines often

submerged in broader society.

Charlton's position was difficult in other ways. Because of the university's strong tradition of management by consultation, he did not have the same executive freedom enjoyed by private sector CEOs. Some controversial decisions regarded him as an illegitimate leader.

He also knew he had to retain the confidence of senate, the university's highest academic body but also an assembly that was potentially fractious and difficult to read.

Charlton once noted wryly: "You may find some rather difficult people at a university like this, but very few stupid ones." At the height of a particular crisis, he entered an unrelated meeting of some senior colleagues and mused: "Everyone's telling me what to do, which is very helpful indeed."

It was important to Charlton that management problems should not interfere with the running of the university. Even when under great pressure, he insisted on honouring his many appointments and social appearances. He was invariably

well prepared and briefed before a meeting — and sharp with those who were not. A master of detail who never lost sight of the broader picture, he accepted that the chief executive's key function was to take the difficult decisions without undue delay. And in running an institution of about 22 000 people, there are few days when no difficult decisions crop up.

They never succeeded in killing off his dry wit or his intellectual curiosity in matters as disparate as evolution and rugby tactics. Yet he could be formidable: you pulled yourself together mentally before you went to see him.

He has a sure grasp of politics and an acute understanding of how the media work.

Charlton once said, when asked whether the job gave him sleepless nights, that his medical training cured him of lying awake worrying. It probably also taught him the value of not taking work home. Frequently he would be in his office by 6.30am and leave only 15 or 16 hours later. But he was seldom seen carrying papers to his car.

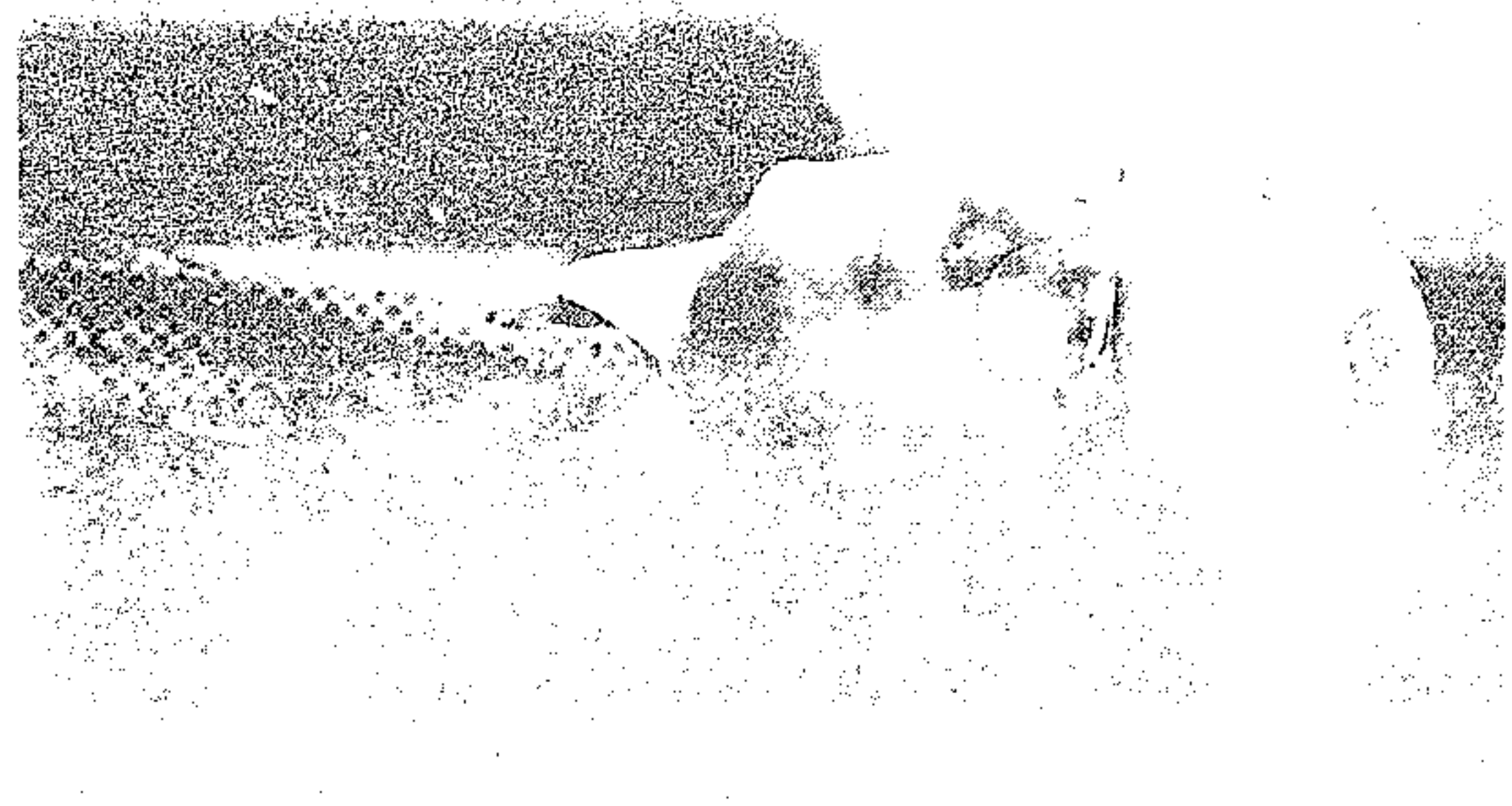
Once he suddenly terminated a news conference at the end of a tense, trying day by pointing out courteously that it was his wedding anniversary and he was taking his wife to dinner.

When Charlton locked his office door, he brought to a close a 52-year direct association with Wits. In his decade as vice-chancellor and principal, he inevitably made mistakes and enemies. Even his critics cannot deny that he brought to the job integrity, courage and a great sense of duty and service. His supporters believe that, in an almost impossible period for academic leadership, he took big decisions and held the line as few others could have done.

□ Williams worked with Charlton as Wits's director of communications from 1995 to 1997. He is now communications manager at SA Breweries' beer division.



Robert Charlton.



Robert Charlton.

# Suspension row widens

By Victor Mecoamere

THE public protector and Human Rights Commission have been brought into the row between the suspended Vaal Triangle Technikon vice-chancellor Professor Aubrey Mokadi and the institution.

"The public protector is examining the validity of the suspension while the Human Rights Commission is investigating whether or not my rights have been violated," said Mokadi from his home yesterday.

He complained that his suspension - with full salary - on October 31 was unfair as it occurred while

*Sowetan 19/1/98 (54)*  
he was in the United States on business. "I have not been consulted in person since then," he said.

The allegations, said to have been made by staff and students, include nepotism, maladministration and unfair labour practices.

*Sowetan* has learnt that the report of the investigation into the allegations has been completed but is yet to be made public.

Mokadi said he could have responded to the allegations had he been called to do so.

Technikon council chairman Dr Chrizanne van Eeden earlier this month said they had communicated with Mokadi through his lawyers.

Meanwhile, the National Education and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) has threatened to start protesting against Mokadi's continued suspension from tomorrow.

"We are feeling bad about the suspension. Nehawu was not consulted. The vice-chancellor himself was not consulted.

"He has also not been approached personally since he came back from the US," said Nehawu chairman Mr Gift Smith.

Smith said union members would start picketing inside the campus between 9am and 9.30am and between 1pm and 1.30pm.

# R300-m aid plan for students

Star 20/11/98  
By EDWIN NAIDU

Just weeks before what promised to be a troubled start to the new academic year at tertiary institutions, Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu announced yesterday that the Government would pump R300-million into a student finance scheme.

Welcoming the move as a temporary solution, academics said the announcement showed no indication of a greater plan to alleviate the annual uncertainty faced by higher education institutions over funding.

Bengu said the R300-million, an increase on last year's R200-million, would be boosted by additional funds from local and international donors. He said the Government was committed to providing access to higher education institutions.

After an initial R20-million, Bengu said the Government had so far allocated R860,5-million (including the 1998 figure) for student financial aid.

"The need for student loans and bursaries is considerable and if we are to address the serious backlogs from the past, it will require the commitment of all concerned and can't be left to the Government alone," he said.

Bengu said the Government intended increasing its contribution to student aid over the next financial period. He would also be announcing details of a consolidated programme to deal with and avoid problems in future.

Bengu said a national funding scheme would not be sus-

tainable if parents and students did not repay loans; higher education institutions carried the responsibility of ensuring the resources at their disposal were efficiently managed; and that the levels of fee debt were not allowed to reach unacceptably high levels.

The chairman of the Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDI), Professor Cecil Abrahamse, said many students at HDIs came from poor economic backgrounds and ended up in a debt trap because, after they settled their old debts, they then had to deal with the current ones.

Professor Hugh Afrika, vice-chancellor of Vista University, said that if the student debt accumulated over the past two years was wiped out as a result of the package announced by Bengu, the problems would recur because there would be no money for aid when new students enrolled at institutions.

Some institutions, including the University of Zululand - which is owed R32-million for last year and an additional R28-million in older debts - carry outstanding loans for several years.

The following institutions revealed the amounts outstanding in 1997 student loans: University of Durban-Westville, R17,5-million; University of Natal, R7,5-million; University of the Witwatersrand, R15-million; Rand Afrikaans University, R3-million; University of Pretoria, R18,7-million; University of Fort Hare, R10-million; and Rhodes University, R100 000.

# Govt aid to students gets hefty boost

CAPE TOWN — Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu yesterday announced a 50% increase in government aid to financially needy, academically able students at higher education institutions.

Government's contribution this year to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) would be R300m, he said. Last year the total fund stood at R334m after government's contribution was augmented by donor funds.

This total had already been passed this year, and government hoped the fund would be considerably strengthened by both local and international contributions.

Government's commitment to assisting poor students attend universities and technicians had been amply demonstrated by its contribution to student financial aid over the past few years — this had risen from R20m in 1994 to R300m this year.

Public funding of the NSFAS had amounted to R860,5m since 1994, Bengu said. A total of R362,5m had also been received in donor contributions over the same period. — Sapa.

# Man with cheques 'missing', so Cape farm schools grind to a halt

BISHO — Farm schools in the northwest of the Eastern Cape will not open today as Bisho has yet to pay them hundreds of thousands of rands owed for last year — because the staffer with the cheques is missing, perhaps dead.

Principals have been paying out of their own pockets — so much so that the husband of one in Middelburg is suing for divorce.

Emilia Looek, who chairs the farm school principals' association for Middelburg, Cradock, Hofmeyr and Steynsburg, said: "Things are quite desperate. Some schools were not paid for the whole of last year, and suppliers are refusing any further credit."

Her school, Willow's Primary near Middelburg, is owed R32 000. The parents, 81 pupils and others will meet today to discuss what to do.

Similar meetings will be held at more than 20 other schools, which have run up hundreds of thousands of rands while waiting

for more than R240 000 from the provincial education department. "The whole area is coming to a standstill," Looek said.

The biggest problem the schools face is finding food and accommodation for boarders. Looek said: "Bisho hasn't paid my school's boarding money, which is R100 per pupil per term, since July, and the suppliers who gave me food refuse to deliver any more. I owe them R16 000. The owner of the hostel building also refuses to let us in because the rent hasn't been paid."

The house mother has also refused to return to work. Regional school inspectors are aware of the problem, but say their hands are tied as they cannot issue cheques for the outstanding amounts.

When Democratic Party representative Eddie Trent queried the outstanding amounts last year in the legislature, education MEC Nosimo Balindlela said: "Those

schools received their amounts a long time ago. My officials are there. They are part of the people who actually took the cheques to those farm schools."

Yesterday Balindlela's private secretary Guy Rich said the cheques had been issued and handed to a staffer. He was on leave, so the department could not establish what had happened.

But Looek said when she tried to contact the staffer last week she was told he had "passed away". Looek and others will meet Balindlela in Queenstown on Friday to explain their plight. "But it doesn't help for us to explain our needs; I've had it," she said.

She said one principal's husband was suing for divorce. The woman had paid so much for pupils out of her own pocket that her personal bank account had been frozen, and as a result her child was turned away from a hospital in Bloemfontein. — ECN.

# Funds needed for act to work

provincial land affairs departments would implement a programme to inform farmers and farm workers of their rights and obligations under the new law.

The act gives people on rural and periurban land stronger rights to the land they live on. Last year, land affairs director-general Joelf Budlender said the department planned to use

a radio campaign and legal aid to inform people and implement the act.

The department was not available for comment yesterday, but Husy said the proposed strategy was taking longer than expected and would be running by March.

However, the number of evictions on farms in SA "seemed to have tapered off", he said. Mpumalanga agriculture department spokesman Mandla Mathebula said the department hoped to mediate between farmer and worker unions in a bid to avoid evictions. Last year 43 families were evicted from seven farms in the province. "The act says labour tenants cannot be evicted when the farmer feels like it, but only when farmers have obtained a court order under the new Act."



The African National Congress by constitutional court presi

# 'Non-racialism best for Tuks'

(54)

ET 20/1/98

JOHANNESBURG: The South African Students' Congress (Sasco) said at the weekend that it remained committed to the principle of non-racialism to resolve racial violence at students' residences at the University of Pretoria.

"It will definitely be a violation of Sasco principles to suggest apartheid solutions for the problems at Tuks (University of Pretoria) residences," Gauteng Sasco chairperson Mr Jacob Mamabolo said.

He said that in consultations, which began on August 13 and were continuing, several proposals were made. Central to these was a need to meet management and the Huis Alliansie Rndom Tuks to discuss and develop an accord on

ending violence in residences.

He said there was no truth in statements that students were demanding separate residences, and added the option was made in the light of already existing premises as implemented by management in residences like Huis Sonop for whites only and Huis Karee for blacks only, and the existence of black and white corridors.

"In the meeting, we pronounced our commitment to condemn the present arrangement and any other option of this nature," Mamabolo said.

He said there was no finality on what options to adopt on residences because the consultations were continuing. — Sapa

# Students slam fee increases

(54)

sewefan 21/1/98

By Sello Seripe

**U**NIVERSITY authorities should stop the unilateral imposition of study fee increases, it was said yesterday.

Addressing a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday, South African University Students Representative Council (SAUSRC) president Mr Sam Thobakgale said the yearly increases impacted most on the students whose parents earned far less than a living wage.

Instead, the Government should prioritise education in its budget "as it is the pivotal area of investment for potential production of a critical and competent manual and mental labour force".

The SAUSRC also announced

They want universities to stop raising study fees unilaterally

that it would embark on an "operation education for all" campaign when the academic year resumes next month.

The organisation's acting general secretary Mr Lucky Nchabeleng said the campaign was aimed at calling on university authorities to stop the yearly fees increase.

He also called on Government:

- To prioritise education in its budget allocation;

- The Education Ministry to put into place the long overdue redress fund plan for students to service the debt created by the apartheid funding

system;

- Business to provide bursaries and scholarships, with a bias to natural science studies; and

- To encourage institutions of learning to chart out a coherent funding and fundraising programme for needy students.

"However, the campaign will run concurrently with the aggressive and effective consultative meetings with interested structures which include youth formations, student organisations, Government, business and other organs of civil society," Nchabeleng said.

# Tech council studies report

(EH)  
Sowetan 21/1/98

By Victor Mecoamere

SENIOR members of the Vaal Triangle Technikon's Council are currently studying the report of an investigation into the allegations against suspended Vice-Chancellor Professor Aubrey Mokadi, Council chairwoman Dr Chrizanne van Eeden said yesterday.

"We have received the report. Its recommendations are currently being studied by myself and other council members. This is being done in consultation with the technikon's legal team. It has been a very sensitive process all along," said Van Eeden.

She said a council meeting would be called "this week or early next week" to discuss the report, but did not say when the report would be made public.

Mokadi, who was suspended with full salary on October 31 last year after allegations against him by the technikon's staff and students, has called on the public protector and the Human Rights Commission (HRC) to become involved in the matter.

He said the suspension was unfair

because it occurred while he was in the United States on official business and he has not been given a chance to answer the allegations.

Van Eeden has said communication with Mokadi had been done through his lawyers.

The HRC is supposed to examine whether Mokadi's rights were violated and the public protector is expected to ascertain the validity of the suspension.

## Were rights violated?

Mrs Nalini Bagrath of the HRC has confirmed that the commission was investigating whether or not Mokadi's rights had been violated.

Mrs Nalini Bagrath and Dr Thinus Schutte have confirmed that the public protector was investigating a complaint by Mokadi.

Schutte said Mokadi had complained that the procedures which were followed in his suspension were unlawful.

"The investigation is at an advanced stage and we have received information from the technikon's lawyers," said Schutte.

BUSINESS DAY, Wednesday, January 21 1998

# Western Cape schools in chaos — DP

Business Day Reporter

CAPE TOWN — A Democratic Party investigation showed widespread chaos in Western Cape schools on the first day of the school year, provincial education spokesman Daniel Silke said yesterday.

"A series of staggering bungles by national and provincial departments has left schools, parents and pupils uncertain, disappointed and demoralised. There is a real danger that pupils will become alienated and undisciplined and

that they will be robbed of their chance for a decent education," Silke said.

Blame for the "fiasco" should rest squarely on the shoulders of Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, whose "grandiose quick-fix schemes have foundered on the rocks of reality", he said. He also attacked education MEC Martha Olickers, saying she had shown herself unable to manage a difficult situation.

Silke said Olickers' department ended last year R483m over budget, heaping further disadvantage on the poorest

schools. Several had anticipated the problems and employed their own teachers. However, most could not afford this and "will struggle through the year with reduced staff and ever-growing classes".

Silke criticised the department for failing to inform temporary teachers of the plan to terminate their services in good time. "Teacher morale is at rock bottom: our most valuable and essential educational resources are being abused."

"Under Bengu's captaincy SA's education system is like the Titanic. The

privileged few have the resources to build their own lifeboats, but the majority are being left to drown in a sea of official incompetence and neglect. For a government which claims to champion the least advantaged members of our society, this is rank hypocrisy."

Sapa reports education MEC Nick Koornhof said he would ask the provincial executive today for additional funds. Key vacancies had been created through the expiry of temporary teachers' contracts and those posts had to be filled.

## Students plan protest for increased funding

STUDENT protests centering on demands for increased state funding of higher education were being planned at universities around SA for next month, the SA universities students' representative council said yesterday.

Council president Sam Thobakgale said the protests — which would form part of the council's "operation education

for all" campaign to be launched early next month — would be organised provincially and would be followed by a "national day of action".

The intention of the campaign would be to prevent "financial exclusion" from university of disadvantaged students who had academic potential but could not afford fees.

Council acting general secretary Lucky Nchabaleng said the campaign would also include the declaration by the council of a moratorium on "unilateral, exorbitant" fee increases by universities. He did not say how the moratorium would be enforced.

Several universities have already announced significant fee increases for this year and some

have stated their intention not to allow the registration of students who owe money for previous years' tuition.

Nchabaleng said the council recognised students' obligation to pay their debts to universities, but saw the need for a means test to determine which students were unable to pay. The council would also de-

mand Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu launch a "long overdue redress fund" that would assist disadvantaged students.

The campaign would also target the business community, insisting that bursaries and scholarships be given out on a large scale.

It would also encourage institutions to come up with fundraising programmes to ensure they did not rely solely on state subsidies and fees for funding.

Kevin O'Grady

BO 21/1/98



# Mosala takes reins at North West

Professor's mission is to encourage both lecturers and students to make the institution a place of excellence

By Mokgadi Pela

**P**ROFESSOR Itumeleng Mosala, a highly acclaimed social scientist and internationally renowned humanist, took up the post of vice-chancellor at the Technikon North West (TNW) in GaRankuwa this month.

His mission is to transform the lives of lecturers and students during his five-year term of office.

Mosala (47), who has been at the cutting edge of local politics, will also bring a wealth of experience and wisdom to the institution after two years as chief director of higher education in the Ministry of Education.

"It will take truly loyal and patriotic academic and management leadership to provide the sort of career education that will be attractive to students, industry and parents," Mosala said.

"We have to create distinctive features about TNW that will make it very competitive, to the extent that people begin to talk about it more positively. We have to have pressure for places here," he said. During his term of office he would like to see:

- Imagination and innovation instead of people sitting around and complaining all the time;
- A new sense of discipline in both staff and the student body;
- New international links in the form of information and exchange programmes for both lecturers and students; and
- Competent leadership both academically and culturally.

On the challenges facing students, Mosala said: "These lie in their ability to make claims and to balance that with an acknowledgement of a greater accountability to society which, after all, supports us through taxes.

"The student community must also demonstrate their accountability to their mothers and fathers out there who carry the burden of paying fees. The only way of doing this is to perform well academically.

"Overall, students are not performing as well as they should and therefore are unaccountable to society."

On why he left Government for a less prestigious job, Mosala said: "Having designed the (education) policy, somebody must go into the trenches and implement it."

## We have to have pressure for places here

In his previous job, Mosala was responsible for policy formulation and the monitoring and transformation of systems in higher education. He helped to design a White Paper on Education and the new Education Act.

He said institutions of higher learning would look to Government to help them implement policy. He said the country was caught in the process of transforming these institutions with limited resources.

"On the other hand, there's pressure from students who want transformation but for whom there's no money. Part of the solution is that government must make more money available.

"The sooner Government sees education as an investment rather than a cost the better. If we are talking about

transforming the economy and society, then education is a major issue.

"The time has come for Government to fund education on educational and not purely on budgetary grounds."

Mosala said he was not alone in his quest to make TNW a centre of excellence. "We now have a full team at the top," he said. "They are the right people to lead TNW into the next millennium."

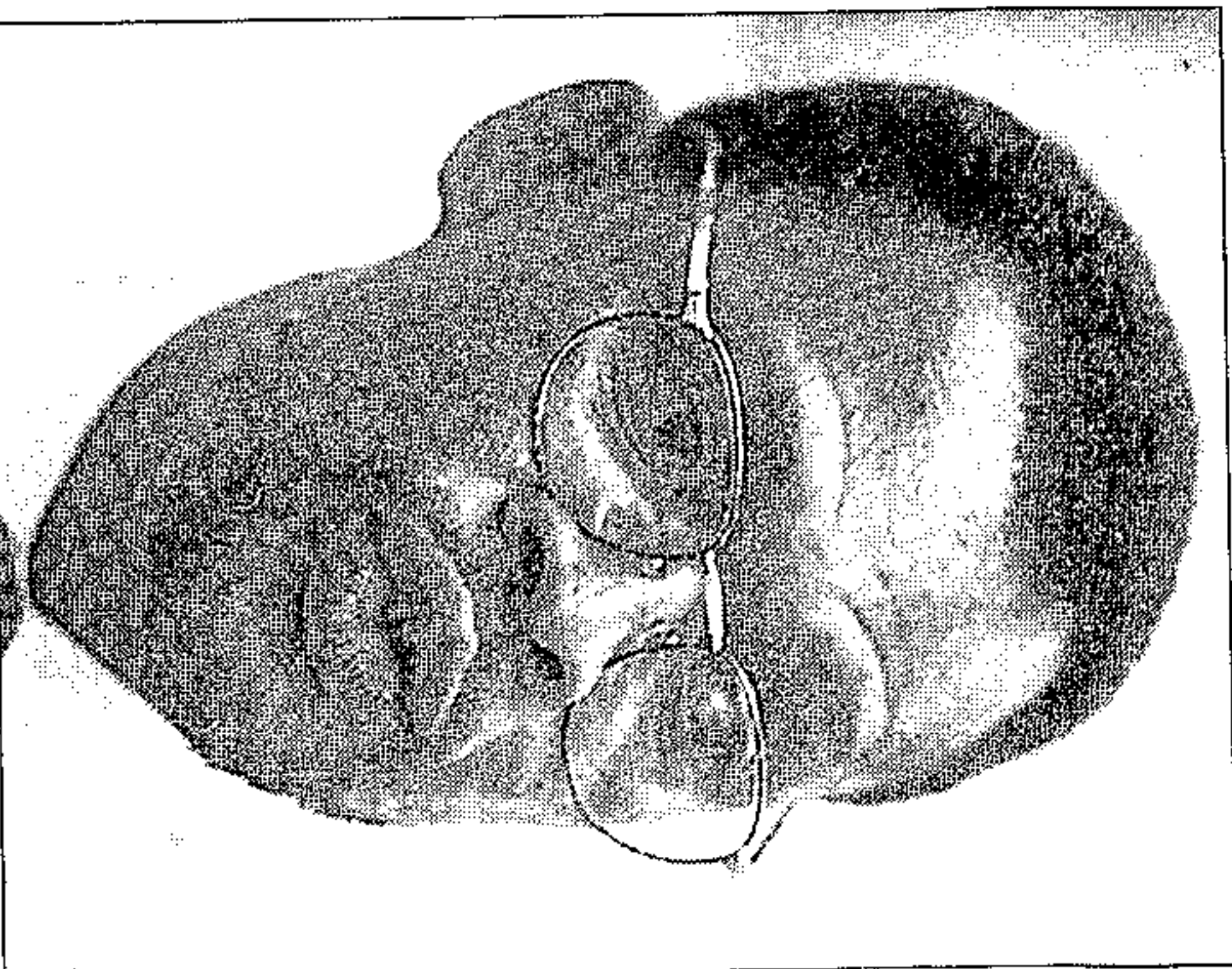
"These include deputy vice-chancellor (academic research) Professor W Reyneke and deputy vice-chancellor (finance and administration) Professor M Phala.

"We also have a transformed council headed by leading neurosurgeon Professor Sam Mokgokong and Advocate Selby Bagwa. Both are distinguished academics."

Mosala holds a PhD from the University of Cape Town in Biblical Hermeneutics and Black Theology as well as an MBA degree from the Open University Business School, England. He has lectured at the universities of Botswana, Cape Town and Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He has written extensively on religion, economics and politics.

He has also served as external examiner at the universities of South Africa, Witwatersrand and Transkei, and has addressed many gatherings.

These include the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid in New York, the Conference for a Democratic Future at Wits University, the Association of European Workers Conference in East Berlin and a World Conference on Bible and People's Struggles in Sao Paulo.



Professor Itumeleng Mosala wants to transform the Technikon North West as vice-chancellor.

PICTURE BY LEN KHUMALO

## Blacks must speak up

**LEADING** academic Professor Itumeleng Mosala has called on black professionals to comment on issues affecting the country and not let whites dominate centre stage.

Mosala told *Sowetan* that black professionals "should be committed to knowledge and truth and speak out fearlessly". He said the resurgence of white liberalism was a direct result of silence from the black world.

To address this, Mosala said, an association of black professionals would soon be formed in Pretoria. "The problem with white liberals

is that they are committed to capital and their way of doing things revolves around the maximisation of capital. They reject those who don't respond to their dictates."

He said there were two kinds of black professionals. "Those who are organically linked to their communities and who have never separated themselves from their people. And those who use their education as an permit from their society and as an entry visa into another class or society. "These have always kept quiet for fear of insulting their future mentors."

## TNW setting new standards

THE Technikon North West (TNW) is determined to become a model of technical excellence.

In an interview with *Sowetan*, public relations officer Ricky Oliphant said: "This will be done through a combination of good leadership at both academic and student level."

About his plans for 1998, Oliphant said: "We will try to reach out to the local community to make them aware of what we offer. For far too long, we have operated like an

island and the time has come for that to change."

He said the importance of technical expertise for South Africa could not be overemphasised. "We want to change the attitude of the community towards technical education," he said.

"South Africans seem to look down on technical education in favour of academic education. But the two complement each other, and TNW will prove this."

# Four varsities push up fees

By Khathu Mamalia

FOUR universities have increased tuition fees by between six and 14 percent for this academic year, *Sowetan* has learnt.

The highest increase has been at the University of Venda, where students will pay out 14 percent more for tuition.

Wits University follows with a 10 percent increase for tuition, while residence fees will rise by nine percent. The University of the North has recommended and increase of eight percent to its council, while the University of Natal has raised its fees by six percent.

A confrontation is looming at the University of the North (Unin) with students accusing management of proposing a 48 percent fee increase. The university is owed more than R83 million in unpaid fees.

Turfloop student representative council general secretary Mr Bennito Motisoë said yesterday that the university management was proposing an eight percent increase for course registration and a 40 percent increase for accommodation.

"This clearly shows that the university wants to increase fees by 48 percent. This cannot be justified. This move means that black students will have to remain at home as they

do not have money," said Matisoë.

He said the university increased its fees by 14 percent last year. He added that on average a student would pay up to R21 000 this year compared to about R14 000 last year.

However, Unin spokesman Mr Kgalema Mohuba denied that the university intended to increase fees by 48 percent.

"The management has recommended an eight percent increase. I do not know where this rumour of 48 percent comes from. It is not true that we circulated a pamphlet suggesting such an increase," he said. The council would meet tomorrow to

discuss the issue of fees.

In an open letter to parents, Unin vice chancellor Professor Nyabulo Ndebele said the outstanding fees were more than R83 million.

"In 1997 alone only 30 percent of students registered settled their debts. A repetition of this situation cannot be allowed to recur in 1998 if the university is to operate on a sound financial footing," said Ndebele.

The council of the University of Venda approved a 14 percent fee increase last week.

An SRC spokesman at Univen, Mr Richard Shilenge said the increase was unjustified.

*Sowetan 28/11/98 (54)*

## Technikon rector faces disciplinary inquiry <sup>(54)</sup>

STW 24/11/98

The Vaal Triangle Technikon council has decided to institute a disciplinary inquiry against its rector and vice-chancellor, Professor Aubrey Mokadi.

Mokadi, who was appointed to the post in July 1996, was suspended on November 1 last year.

"It was also agreed that representatives from independent bodies be appointed to conduct this process," council chairwoman Dr Chrizanne van Eeden said yesterday.

Van Eeden said the decision to hold the inquiry was taken at an emergency meeting of the council on Thursday night.

She declined to give reasons for Mokadi's suspension, saying this would be unfair because the rector had not yet had a chance to study the allegations against him. - Sapa

# Quiet exit for capable

## Wits leader

(54) Star 26/11/98

By DAVID WILLIAMS

Professor Robert Charlton retired on Christmas Eve as vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand. As retirements go, it was quieter than most – and that is just how Bob Charlton would have liked it.

Unlike some other university principals of his era, he was not driven from office by the mob, or forced by his colleagues to take early retirement, or tempted to flee from the stresses of high office back into scholarly work. He handed over without fuss to his successor, Professor Colin Bundy.

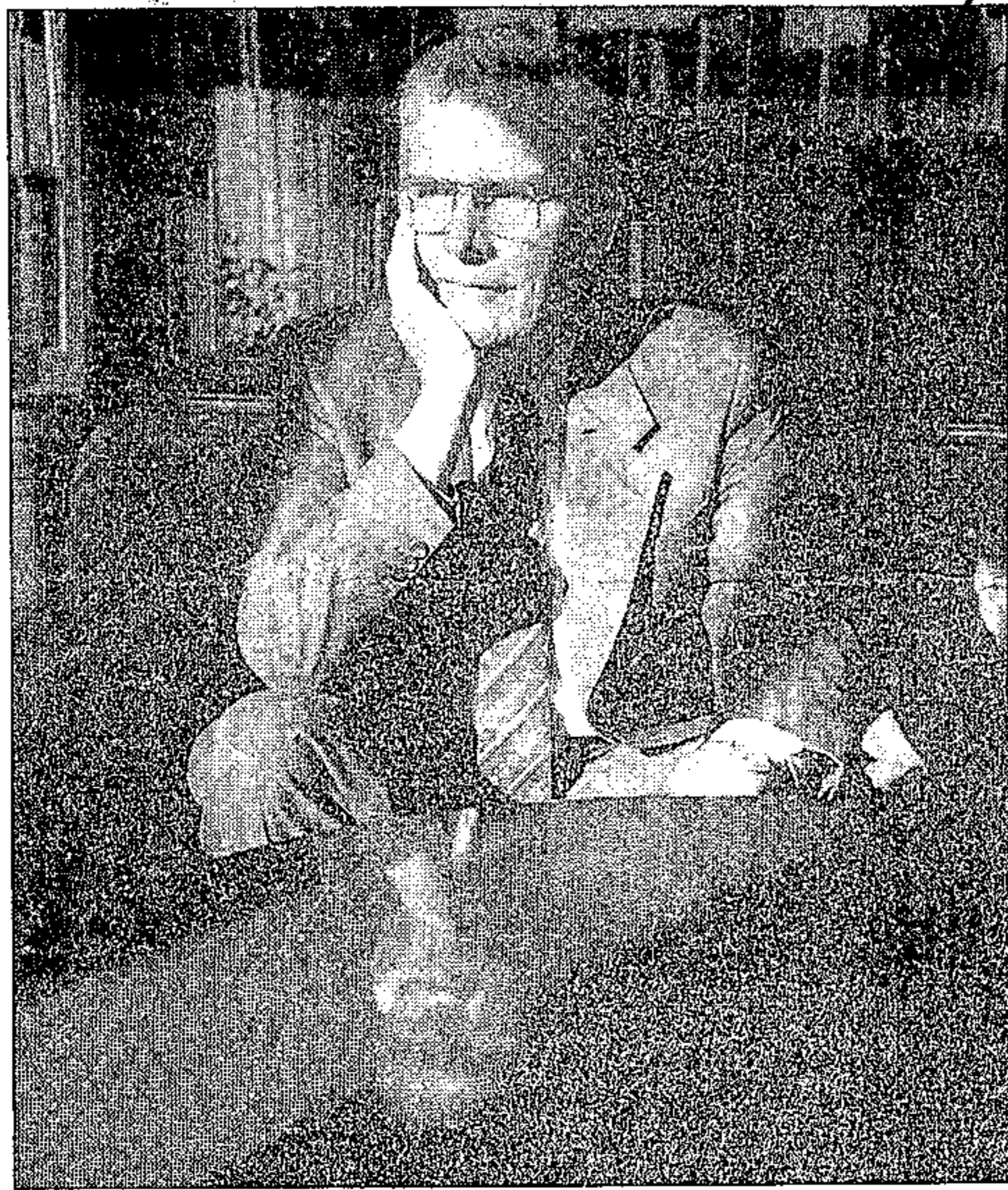
Charlton's term of office coincided with the most turbulent and unstable period in the history of tertiary education in South Africa. In the mid-1980s the apartheid regime of PW Botha was losing its grip and most established institutions were targets of civil unrest and sharp intellectual questioning.

The English-medium liberal universities, with their populations of questioning young adults and their insistence on the freedoms of speech and assembly, were especially vulnerable.

It was an ironic paradox, widely and often wilfully misunderstood, that the universities which fought longest and hardest against apartheid should appear to be the first victims of its overthrow. Charlton understood it very well.

He was able to work through the paradox because he is a liberal conservative. Liberal, in that he genuinely believes that the freedom of the scholar depends on broader freedoms, which in turn require constant vigilance and often unfashionable defence. Conservative, in that he understands that nothing is possible without order and sound administration; he prefers to be convinced that change will bring improvement before embracing that change.

The vice-chancellorship has for many years been a political position, requiring a cool head and fine judgment. It was an especially lonely job, too, in the early 1990s. The legitimacy of the old National Party government had all but drained away, but the new elite from the ANC was not yet restrained by the responsibility of office.



Hard act to follow ... Charlton never lost his intellectual curiosity.

In this disturbing vacuum many loud and angry voices were raised, some fearful of change and others desperate to precipitate it. The tension was especially visible at universities, which are lightning conductors for great stresses and

fault-lines that are often submerged in the broader society.

Charlton's position was difficult in other ways. Because of the university's strong tradition of management by consultation, he did not have the same kind of executive freedom enjoyed by private sector CEOs (many of whom failed to understand this). Some constituencies, echoing the national politics of transition, regarded him as an illegitimate leader.

He also knew he must retain the confidence of Senate, the university's highest academic body but also an assembly, like the House of Commons, that is potentially fractious, moody and difficult to read.

Charlton once noted wryly: "You may find some rather difficult people at a university like this, but very few stupid ones."

And at the height of a particular crisis he entered an unrelated meeting of some senior colleagues and mused: "Everyone's telling me what to do, which is very helpful indeed ..."

It was important to Charlton that management problems should not interfere with the running of the university. Even when he was under great pressure, he insisted on honouring his many appointments and social appearances.

wit, or his intellectual curiosity in matters as disparate as evolution, choral music and rugby tactics. Yet he could be formidable: you pulled yourself together mentally before you went to see him. He has a very sure grasp of national politics – and an acute understanding of how the media work.

Charlton once said, when asked whether the job gave him sleepless nights, that his medical training cured him forever of lying awake worrying. It probably also taught him the value of not taking work home.

Frequently he would be in his Wits office by 6.30am and would only leave the university 15 or 16 hours later. But he was seldom seen carrying papers to his car. Once he suddenly terminated an irritating press conference at the end of a tense, trying day by pointing out courteously that it was his wedding anniversary and he was taking his wife out to dinner.

When Bob Charlton locked his office door on the 11th floor of Senate House on Christmas Eve, he brought to a close a 52-year direct association with Wits. In his decade as vice-chancellor and principal, he inevitably made some mistakes and some enemies. But even his critics cannot deny that he brought to the job integrity, courage and a great sense of duty and service.

His supporters believe that, in an almost impossible period for academic leadership, he took the key decisions and held the line as few others could have done.

David Williams, who worked with Professor Charlton as Wits' director of communications from 1995 to 1997, is now communications manager at the Beer Division of SA Breweries.

He was invariably well prepared and briefed before a meeting – and sharp with those who were not. A master of detail who never lost sight of the broader picture, he accepted that the chief executive's key function is to take the difficult decisions without undue delay. And in running an institution of some 22 000 people, there are few days when no difficult decisions crop up.

The challenges never succeeded in killing off his dry

# Fee debts could force UWC to close

**TROY LUND**

OUTSTANDING fees amounting to millions of rands may force the University of the Western Cape to close, the university's rector and chairman of the Historically Disadvantaged Institutions, Professor Cecil Abrahamns has announced.

Of the estimated R500 million that students nationwide owed universities and technicians, the debt accumulated by UWC students was R52m, he said.

The amount was owed by 7 665 students, 1 732 of whom owed R10 000 or more.

Abrahamns said each of the students had been warned that unless they paid at least 40% of what they owed they would be refused registration this year.

In a circular to staff last week Abrahamns wrote: "UWC does not have the cash reserves and we are unable to sustain the kind of debt that was created in 1997. The university usually relies on student contributions to underwrite costs dur-

ing January to March. The university receives its first subsidy cheque from the government in April."

He said the university had stretched its overdraft facilities to the limit and could not continue if students did not start reducing their fee accounts.

Students' Representative Council (SRC) president Mr Goodenough Kodwe, who owes R20 738, said students could not find 40% of what they owed.

"It is not free education we are fighting for. Students who cannot pay are a reality. No one should be excluded for financial reasons," Kodwe said.

"A clear and workable system has to be put in place to determine which students cannot afford to pay and how much each of them can pay, be it three-quarters of the fees, R200 or R400."

The problem of debt would not be solved by exclusion but by creative solutions, better management, fundraising, appeals to donors and resurrecting the debt

collecting system, Kodwe said.

"There are students who can pay but don't. They do things like submitting bank statements of pensioners instead of their parents' who are managers and can pay. Many students just leave and are never traced."

"What will excluding debtors from the university achieve? The money will not be recovered if all the debtors leave. The debt-collection department at UWC just does not exist," said Kodwe, who claims to have no one to turn to for money now that his mother, a domestic worker, has died.

He said the university had a responsibility to adhere to its mission statement and help marginalised students. Excluding students on financial grounds would only perpetuate an elitist system.

Although the SRC was committed to negotiations with university management, Kodwe warned that students had decided on action at a mass meeting.

"No one wants the university to

go up in flames. Demonstrations would destroy its image among investors — but mass action may be the last resort," he said.

Mr Elwin van Gensen, assistant to the rector, said the university realised how many disadvantaged students were poor and ended up in a debt trap because they still had to deal with current debts after they had settled old ones.

Parents were being encouraged to appear with students at registration so that agreements could be reached. In this way, students in debt could continue studying, while the university had a guarantee that it would be paid over a negotiated period.

"There is always the minority of students who abuse the system and do not pay when they can. We are prepared to interview parents and sureties, assess their predicament and negotiate a solution. We are not leaving the door completely closed," he said, adding that the situation was grave enough to make closure a real possibility.

BY 26/1/98

(54)

# Cash crunch may close

UWC (54)

Don 27/1/98

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Millions in outstanding fees may force the University of the Western Cape (UWC) to close, the university's rector and chairman of the Historically Disadvantaged Institutions, Professor Cecil Abrahams announced.

Of the estimated R500-million that students owe universities and technicians, the debt accumulated by UWC students stands at R52-million.

The amount is owed by 7 665 students, 1 732 of whom owe R10 000 or more. Students have been warned that unless they cough up a minimum of 40% of what they owe, they will be refused registration this year. In a circular to staff Abrahams wrote: "UWC does not have the cash reserves and we are unable to sustain the kind of debt created in 1997.

He said the university had stretched its overdraft to the limit.

Students Representative Council president, Goodenough Kodwe, who owes R20 738, says there is no way students are going to come up with 40%. "It is not free education we are fighting for. Students who cannot pay are a reality ... A clear and workable system has to be put in place to determine which students cannot afford to pay and how much each of them can pay, be it three-quarters of the fees, R200 or R400," Kodwe said.

The problem of debt would not be solved by exclusion but by creative solutions, better management, fundraising, appeals to donors and resurrecting the debt collecting system, Kodwe said. "There are students who can pay, but don't ... Many students just leave and are never traced.

"What will excluding debtors from the university achieve?" Kodwe asked, claiming he has no-one to turn to for money after his mother, a domestic worker, died.

Kodwe warned that students had decided: "Demonstrations would destroy the university's image among investors - but mass action may be the last resort," he said.

Elwin van Gensen, assistant to the rector, said the university realised how many disadvantaged students were poor and ended up in a debt trap. He said parents and guarantors were encouraged to appear with students so agreements could be reached. In this way students could study, while the university had a guarantee it would be paid.

# Students face big hike in fees at tertiary institutions

Belinda Anderson

BD 27/1/98

(54)

SA UNIVERSITIES and technikons have increased their fees by up to 20% this year and many have adopted a tough policy of refusing to reregister students with outstanding fees.

The University of the North is owed the most — about R80m — while others, including Rhodes University, Rand Afrikaans University and Technikon SA, range from “very little” to R3m and R4m respectively.

Technikon Northern Gauteng spokesman Godfrey Ndhluhi said it was committed to being “an institution not unsympathetic to the financial plight of the community it serves”, and had in the past three years allowed students to register even if they had unsettled debts or if they did not have the minimum required to register.

Now, however, the institution was owed R16m in unpaid fees for 1997 and Ndhluhi said it was impossible to “continue in the same vein this year”.

Fees had gone up 5% and accommodation 6%, and the new policy stated that “no pay, no results and thus effectively no registration”. Ndhluhi said

this would apply at all tertiary institutions throughout the country.

The highest fee increase was at Setlogelo Technikon in North West, and the lowest at the University of North West (formerly Bophuthatswana). However, most increases were in the region of 10% — a minimal amount, according to University of Transkei's finance registrar, Ralph Jefferies.

“If we were to increase beyond the rate of inflation, it would be impossible for the ordinary student to attend university,” he said.

Unitra's tuition fees had increased 8% and residence 10%, said spokesman Karuna Gopal.

Spokesmen for Rhodes, Mangosuthu Technikon, Natal Technikon, Unitra, the University of the Free State, North West and Vista universities said registration was impossible without fees having been paid up.

UCT communications director Helen Zille said students were allowed a maximum of R400 outstanding from the previous year.

Most tertiary institutions had financial aid offices to help students with bursaries and loans, she said.



**TAKING AIM** Mark Rohald, Educor's head of education, left, discusses plans to establish South Africa's first private university with Charles Rowlinson, the chief executive officer

PHOTO: JOHN WOODROOF

## Educor plans private university

ET (BR) 27/11/98 (54)

**ADELE SHEVEL**

Johannesburg — Educor, the listed education and recruitment group, aims to establish the first private university in the country and possibly the continent, Mark Rohald, the head of education at Educor, said yesterday.

The plan was subject to validation and accreditation by regulatory authorities, Rohald said, adding that the new education act said institutions other than universities would be given degree-conferring status.

At the end of last year, the new higher education act replaced the old universities act. Rohald said the government had been eager to pass the bill to put an end to several fly-by-night operators that were entering the market. He said any new private education company set up subsequent to November 15, when the act was passed, was an illegal operator.

Rohald said Educor was negotiating with overseas institutions from the US, Britain and Australia as well as local operators to set up associations and joint ventures in South Africa. One was Pearson, a multinational publishing and resource company with which it already had an association.

Rohald said Educor was waiting for further clarification of the act before certain requirements could be met, such as financial status, academic quality and sustainability.

Rohald said universities were clamouring to forge alliances with the private sector to prevent the demise of their own institutions as the government was cutting their subsidies.

The university would be run on business principles with no tenure and protected employment. Faculties would cover commerce, arts, law, sciences and information technology.

Charles Rowlinson, the newly appointed chief execu-

tive officer at Educor, said the group might set up more than one university campus that would include a variety of teaching methods and seek international registration.

Rohald said the new act would narrow the gap between colleges and universities, and would also allow for recognition of prior learning experience. This would allow students to transfer credits between institutions.

Rohald said universities would no longer be the domain of the government. "If we don't establish our own private-sector initiatives, foreign companies will take the niche."

Rowlinson said they were only aware of AdVtech, the listed training and education company, as another interested local party regarding the creation of a university.

Educor was also looking at moving further north in Africa, into Zambia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.



# Students who won't pay face technikon, university shutout

2 NOV 28/1/98

Arrears build up into millions, threatening system with collapse

By EDWIN MAIDU

**P**ay up or stay out! That's the message from cash-strapped universities and technikons who are owed between R300-million and R500-million in unpaid fees.

The heads of several tertiary institutions said yesterday that written appeals had been made to parents to settle debts, and if they were ignored, their children would be barred.

Tertiary institutions, many of which received the same amount in government subsidies as last year, expect a tough time when the academic year opens in two weeks.

John Wiltshire, spokesman for University of the North (Turfloop) vice-chancellor Professor Njabulo Ndebele, said students owed R54-million for 1997 fees and a total of R83-million overall.

"We have to take a tougher line

or else we can no longer operate."

Wiltshire said there was no single solution to solving the problem. "You can say pay up or get out, but that is not pragmatic with a university such as ours."

Last year the university admitted more than 11 000 students.

University of the Witwatersrand vice-chancellor Professor Colin Bundy said Wits, which is owed around R10-million, had received the same subsidy as it did last year.

Referring to the R300-million allocation for student fund aid announced by Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu last week, Bundy said the figure for 1998 did not take inflation into account. "I hope that expectations have not been falsely raised as a result of the announcement," he said.

Bundy said Wits had made stringent attempts for several years to live within its means and it would

continue in this manner.

University of Pretoria spokesman Mike Smuts said student debts stood at R18,7-million.

However, the university was committed to ensuring students with financial problems would be given the benefit of making special arrangements to settle their debts before they were given admission, he added.

In terms of policy, students who have completed a year of study, but who have not settled their debts for that year, may be refused access to registration for their next year of study until their debts had been settled or a satisfactory arrangement reached, he said.

Reiterating his previous comment that there would be no free education, Bengu said the responsibility in contributing to tuition and residence fees lay with students and their families.

(94)

# Debt-ridden UWC will stay open, says rector

## New collection unit will chase students owing R52-million in fees

CAROL CAMPBELL  
Special Writer

The University of the Western Cape will not close in spite of being owed more than R52-million in unpaid student fees, says rector Cecil Abrahams.

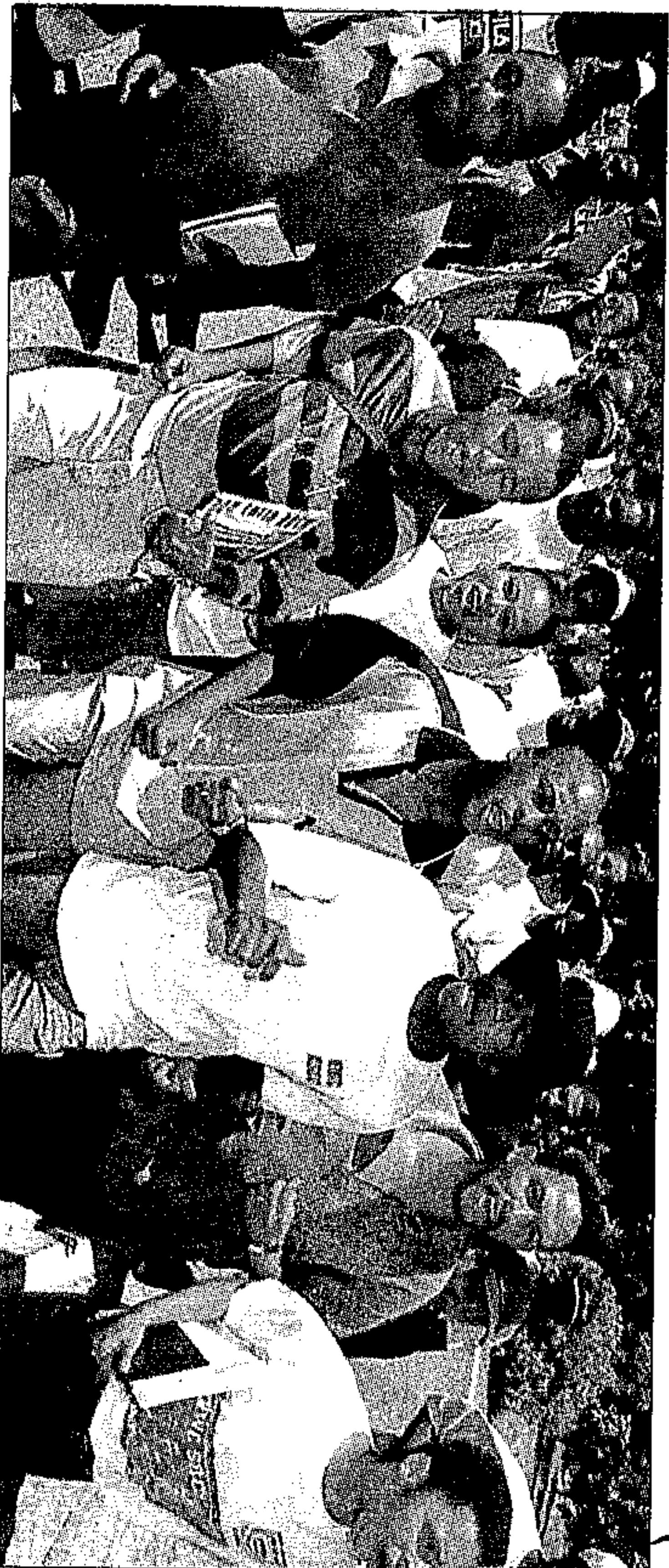
At a media briefing before addressing scores of protesting students yesterday, he repeated his call for the universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town to do more to help UWC carry the financial burden imposed on it by poor students.

"Regional co-operation on this issue is non-existent."

He said the university was to set up a debt collection unit which would visit and telephone students' parents to find out why they were not paying their child's fees.

It is understood that many students come to university with their fees but use the money instead for living expenses.

Professor Abrahams said an internal memorandum, sent to staff



Can't pay, won't pay: students toy-toy to the University of the Western Cape campus finance department during yesterday's protest

last week in which he talked of closing the university because of the cash crisis, had been taken out of context and exaggerated by the media.

"The memorandum was intended to inform staff of the need to collect fees from students."

The memorandum, which read: "should students fail to pay off last

year's debt and contribute to the 1998 budget, we are faced with closure," was printed without permission by newspapers, he said.

The new debt collection unit at



Pay up: UWC rector Cecil Abrahams addresses protesting students

ANDREW INGRAM

UWC was the first of its kind in the country and would employ three full-time staff members.

"Staff will work in the afternoon and evening, when parents are most-

ly likely to be at home, to remind them they have a responsibility to contribute towards their child's education," said Professor Abrahams. Even the parents of a student

from as far away as the Northern Province, for instance, could expect a visit if fees were not forthcoming.

The idea of a debt unit has been approved by student leaders, who recognise the university is in financial trouble.

Goodenough Kodwa, the SRC president, said in an earlier interview that the new system would also enable the university to weed out free-loaders.

He said the debt unit would not work if the university used it to identify poor students and then excluded them when it became apparent that they could not afford the fees.

Although a student mass meeting on the crisis ended without a formal plan of action yesterday, most students were eager to protest.

The individuals who proposed mass action in the meeting were loudly cheered and the SRC was chastised for "selling out" to the university management by allegedly making agreements without a student mandate.

(514)

ARLT 28/1/98

'If they kick me out, I can't pay my debt'

EDUCATION WRITER

SIMPHIWE NDLOVU'S dream is to work in the courts representing people similar to himself, who have been "taken advantage" of because they have no money to pay "fancy" lawyers.

But lack of money may prevent him from finishing his degree. Going into the final year of his B Uris law degree at the University of the Western Cape, Ndlovu owes the university R14 000.

The university has given him an ultimatum: arrive at registration with a minimum of R8 000 and a guardian to guarantee your debt is settled this year, or get out.

"I have no choice. My mother died last year. My studies were paid for with her pension. I now have no one to support me.

"I do not understand why the government, if they have said learning is a right, cannot supply UWC with an emergency subsidy."

He added: "If they kick me out now I will never be able to pay what I owe but, if I qualify and get proper employment, I will.

"Qualified I will be a far better asset to this country and to the university because they will get their money. Excluding people will not get them a cent back."

● Students involved in the liberation struggle were given the impression that in return for fighting apartheid and pursuing their education in spite of financial difficulty, their study debts would be settled by the democratic government after the revolution.

This is the stance that Masters student Mr Mike Abrahams has taken on the crisis at UWC.

"The government has reneged on the impression it gave during the struggle, especially on this campus, which has always been at the centre of the struggle for quality education and for upliftment of the disadvantaged," he said.

● Student debt has become an integral part of university life, and the UWC will be the first tertiary institution to set up an unsparing debt-collecting unit. Not even the most remote nook will be excluded by the three debt-collectors appointed to run the unit this year.

## SRC THREATENS SABOTAGE

# UWC takes a firm stand on student debt

ET 28/1/98 (54)

THE ATMOSPHERE AT the UWC is becoming tenser as a stand-off over unpaid student debt develops between the university and some students. **TROYE LUND** reports.

FINANCIAL reality has set in — the University of the Western Cape (UWC) has been left with no choice but to exclude students from studying there this year if they do not come up with 40% of their outstanding fees.

Students have threatened to revolt. "We will sabotage orientation week and registration if this is enforced," the secretary-general of the Student Representative Council (SRC), Mr Wanga Sigila, told UWC rector Professor Cecil Abrahams yesterday as he led a mass of protesting students to the university administration offices.

But the university management remained resolute.

Abrahams replied: "Comrades, we have always registered students without collecting funds, but now we have to keep open. We will always accommodate disadvantaged students as our mission statement says. No one wishes to exclude you. But we have to collect the minimum payments from you."

Of the 13 000 students at UWC, about 7 665 owe R52 million, 1 732 of whom owe more than R10 000.

Abrahams was emphatic that UWC would not close — the plan was to recover R23m of the R52m debt from returning students at registration.

Apart from the money, a student in debt will also be expected to arrive at registration with a parent or guardian who can commit themselves to paying the balance of the student's debt this year, or over a negotiated period.

First-year students will be enrolled only if they pay R4 500 up front — R2 000 for tuition and R2 500 for residence on campus.

Abrahams said: "Student debt is higher this year than it has ever been. We cannot register students unless



ADAMANT: UWC rector Cecil Abrahams

they make the minimum contributions." He stressed that the SRC had agreed in December to honour these minimum payments of 40%.

The SRC refuses to abide by this agreement because some students will be expected to come up with R8 000 at next week's registration.

Students believe UWC has a responsibility to assess and accept whatever amount disadvantaged students can pay, even if it is R200.

Students who can should be forced to pay their full fees up front, it was decided at yesterday's mass meeting.

Speakers from the floor at the meeting, attended by about 400, vowed to take whatever mass action was necessary to ensure the "doors of learning stayed open".

SRC president Mr Goodenough Kodwe, who owes R20 700 in fees, proposed that historically disadvantaged institutions approach the government for money.

But at meetings, the government told Abrahams it would not

## Plan to recoup money owed

THIS is the plan to recover R23 million of the R52m debt from students before they are allowed to register this year:

● Returning students will not be allowed to register if they do not present 40% of the total fees that they owe — 1 732 of 7 000 student debtors owe more than R10 000 and many owe up to R30 000.

● First-year students will only be enrolled if they pay R2 000 for tuition and R2 500 for residence.

● All returning students with outstanding fees and all new students will have to be accompanied by a parent or guardian at registration so that an agreement can be reached on future payment.

● A debt-collector unit will be established at the university.

meet his request for the government to establish a national loan scheme to allow poor students to finish studying and repay the money when they qualified and were employed.

Abrahams said: "Campuses which draw from disadvantaged communities make up half the universities and technikons in this country. While neither students, myself nor the government believes in free education, we should be looking at a national way of dealing with this.

"We only get our R143-million subsidy, which is a million less than last year, in April. We need fees to carry us until then."

The university was looking at ways to reduce or do away with some of its services.

Meetings between UWC management and the SRC will continue. The SRC has called for a mass meeting tomorrow to decide what to do should those who cannot afford the minimum payment be excluded.

# UWC 'will not close despite crisis'

Star 29/1/98

(54)

## OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town - The University of the Western Cape will not close despite being owed more than R52-million in unpaid student fees, says rector Cecil Abrahams.

At a media briefing before addressing scores of protesting students yesterday, he repeated his call for the Universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town to do more to help UWC carry the financial burden imposed on it by poor students. "Regional co-operation on this issue is non-existent."

He said the university was to set up a debt collection unit which would visit and telephone students' parents to find

out why they were not paying their child's fees. It is understood that many students come to university with their fees but use the money instead for living expenses.

Professor Abrahams said an

## Collection unit set up to get fees

internal memorandum, sent to staff last week in which he talked of closing the university because of the cash crisis, had been taken out of context.

"The memorandum was intended to inform staff of the need

to collect fees from students."

The memorandum, which read: "Should students fail to pay off last year's debt and contribute to the 1998 budget, we are faced with closure," was printed "without permission" by newspapers, he said.

The collection unit was the first of its kind and would employ three fulltime staff members who would try to establish why a student was not paying fees and collect money from those who were able to pay.

Although the SRC has agreed that students must contribute towards their studies, they are insisting there be no exclusion of students on purely financial grounds.

# Universities urged to reserve places

John Dlodlu

(54) (SADC)  
MAPUTO — The Southern African Development Community has urged universities in the region to reserve 5% of vacancies for students from SADC member states — a proposal likely to meet fierce opposition from proponents of university autonomy.

The proposal is part of the organisation's education and training protocol, awaiting ratification by members after being signed by 11 states.

Sam Mkhonta, the director of the education unit at the 14-member

SADC, told the SADC consultative conference that the foreign students would be given special treatment, including being allowed to pay the same fees as nationals.

The system was to be phased in over 10 years, but no legislative powers would be used to enforce the system.

The SADC was also seeking to relax immigration procedures to allow students to move freely. The education unit believed standards should be harmonised to facilitate cross-border recognition of qualifications acquired in any SADC education institution.

BD 29/1/98

# Students heed call to pay up

## UWC will approach parents to help with fees

(54)

CAROL CAMPBELL  
SPECIAL WRITER

Debt-ridden students at the University of the Western Cape have agreed to make an effort to pay for their studies and help the university recoup some of the R52-million owed in fees.

At a rally on the campus yesterday the majority of students did not oppose their leaders who said students had to find ways of contributing towards their studies because education in South Africa was not yet free.

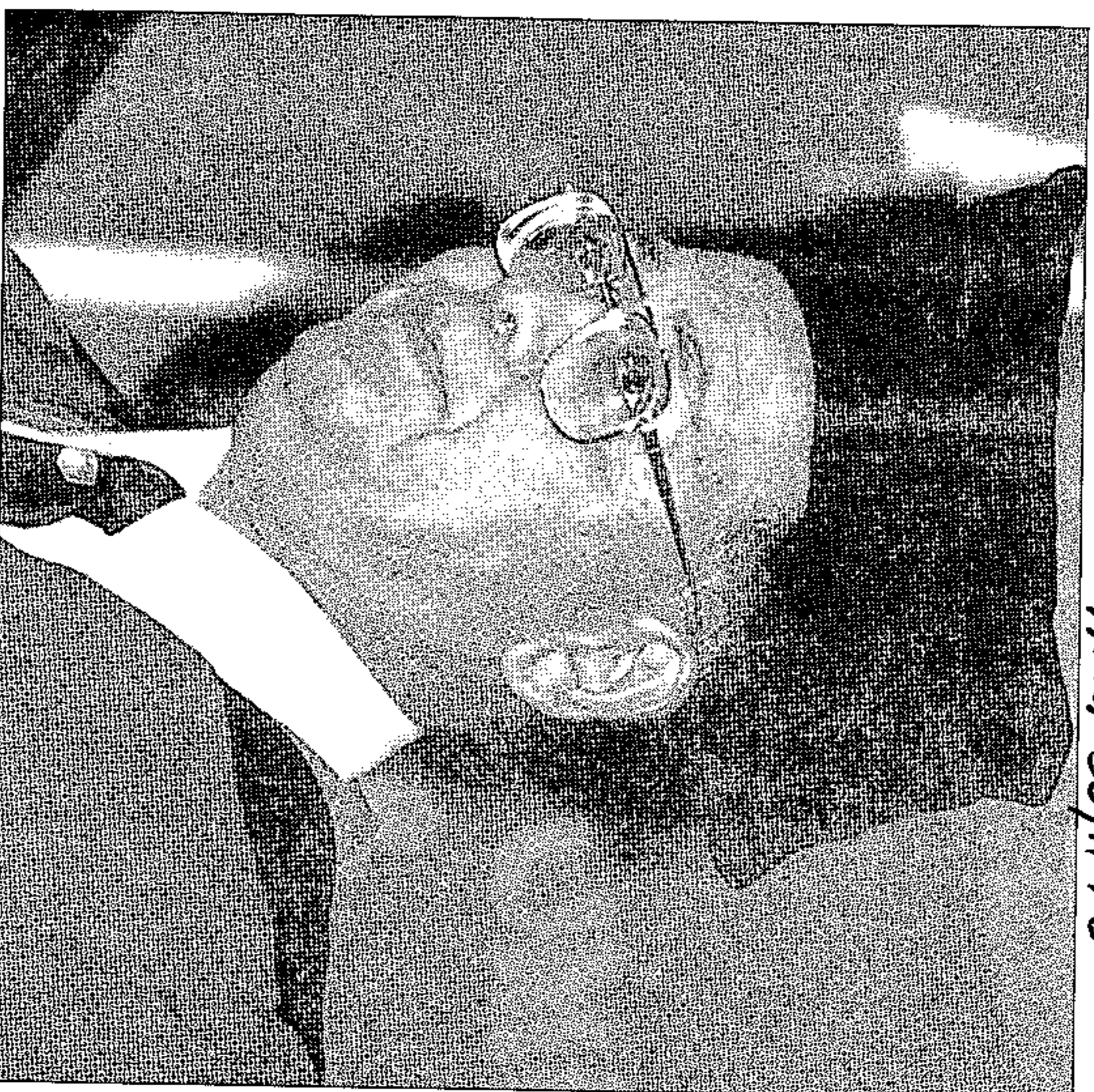
The students supported the university administration's efforts to ask parents to take responsibility for their children's education bills.

The Socialist Student Action Committee caused an upset at the meeting when they burnt a copy of an SRC document which outlined how much students were expected to pay.

A spokesman for the group, Mlamli Lawrence, said in an earlier interview he would not pay fees because he had no money and it was the Government's responsibility to give all its people an opportunity to be properly educated.

"I left university in the late 1980s to go to an ANC training camp in Uganda but now I am back and I will not leave until I have finished my studies. I am not like other students who have money for beer and movies, I have nothing - just anger."

University rector Cecil Abrahams said this week he had great sympathy for the plight of poor students and the university would do what it could to help them, but at the



Sympathy: UWC rector Cecil Abrahams has pledged help to cash-strapped students

end of the day students had to take financial responsibility for their studies.

"A debt collection unit will be set up to contact students' parents to encourage them to contribute to their children's fees," he said.

Wanga Sigila, a Student Representative Council spokesman, said the student leadership at UWC did not support the Government's view that a university education was a

privilege which could not be offered to everyone.

"We believe higher education is a right and for us to realise that right we have to lock hands and fight."

Mr Sigila is among those who are encouraging students to pay their fees but students with legitimate financial problems had to be helped by the university, he said.

"The future of the poor man (or woman) lies in his own hands. If you

really want an education you must find a way to achieve it."

Honours student Smiso Mnewabe said he had found a job at a Waterfront hotel to raise money for his fees.

"I am banking everything I earn so I can get the money together for my fees. UWC students have accepted their financial responsibility and I believe they will all contribute as much as they can," he said.

Mr Sigila said a move by the university administration to force senior students out of residences last week and then employ a security company with dogs to keep them away was obstructing the SRC's attempts to get people to pay up.

"The students are here now and they need somewhere to stay, but if you force them out of residence they are going to use their fee money for accommodation and food and not fees," he said.

Most students were squatting three to a room in the Cassinga residence which they forced open earlier this month. It was the only residence not under guard.

"I think there is going to be a fight for space when the first-year students start arriving at the weekend and the senior students want their rooms back in residence," he said.

SRC president Goodenough Kodwa is also fighting for his academic life. He owes the university some R20 000 in unpaid fees but he has no parents to bail him out.

"My parents are dead and I depend on my elder brother in Gugulethu for support. He can't pay for my studies because he has five children of his own to educate."

# Broke varsities on precipice

(54) MTG 30/1-5/2/98

*Education institutions have been warned to make cutbacks and take a firm stand on student debts,*  
**writes Andy Duffy**

**T**he government is urging universities and technikons to push through severe cutbacks this year as a condition for continued state support.

The Department of Education dismisses fears that campuses, crippled by student debt, face closure. But it says institutions must slash costs to fit their funding, and take a tougher line on students who refuse to pay their fees.

The funding crisis engulfing tertiary education threatens to be as politically perilous for Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu as the mess in state schooling. The heaviest blows will hit the same campuses that suffered under the previous government.

But education officials and many elements of campus management see little alternative. The government insists it will not bail out cash-strapped campuses.

Student debt, cause of the latest cash crunch, is estimated to have more than doubled in the past year to around R500-million, with the historically disadvantaged campuses carrying the bulk. Thousands of students at institutions across the country have now been told they will be barred from registering this year unless they pay up — a stand which last year triggered widespread campus turmoil.

The first major protest against the hardline stance kicked off this week in Cape Town, as the University of the Western Cape (UWC) tried to recover some of the R52-million its students owe.

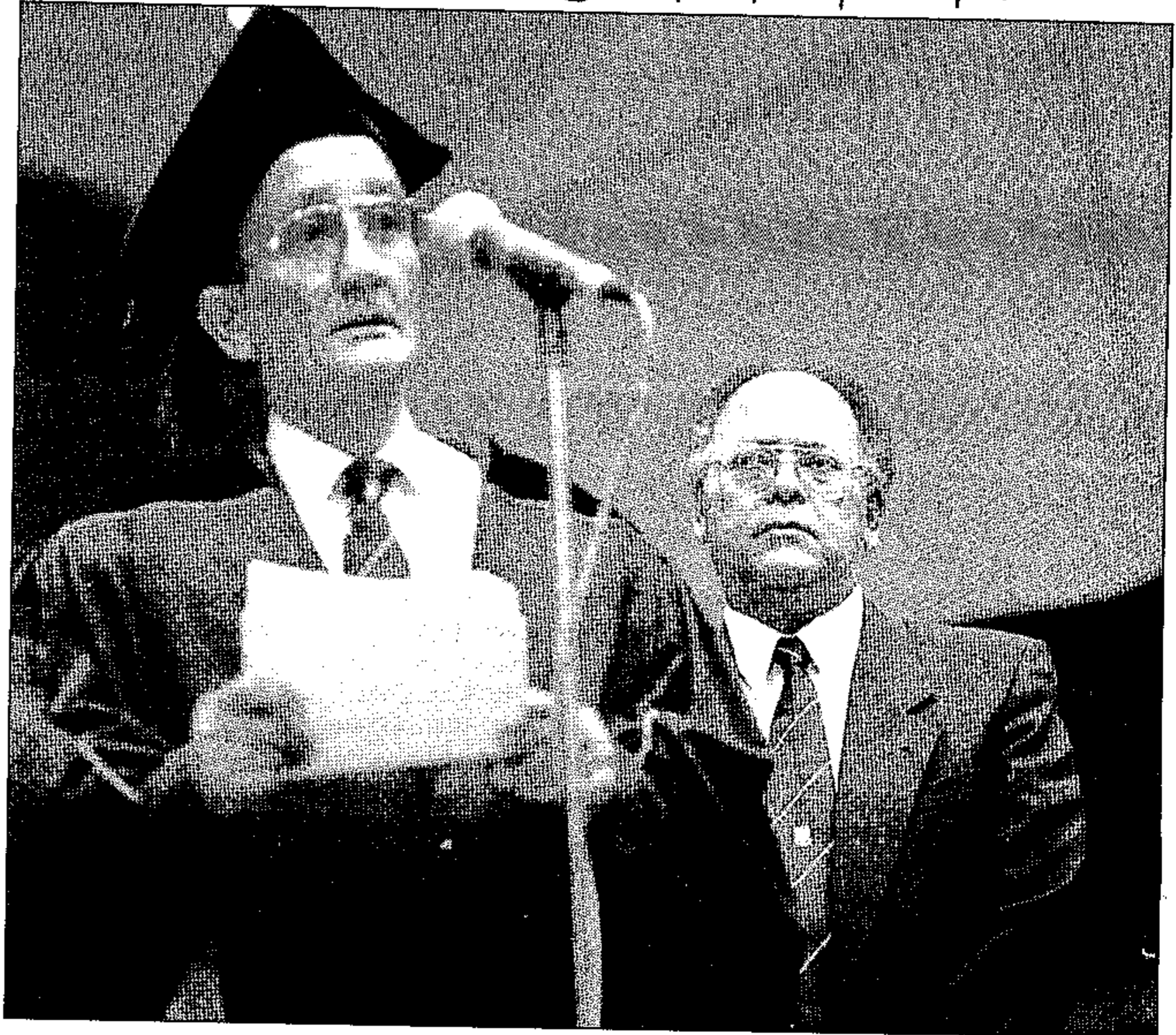
The education department says many of the funding difficulties stem from management failings. "There needs to be a restructuring," says Ahmed Essop, chief director in the department's new planning unit.

"If institutions want to survive they must take these sort of steps. We will continue to subsidise them, but they must play their part."

He says the University of Fort Hare is an example of what can be achieved. Faced with collapse 12 months ago, the university is attempting to save itself through a massive three-year reshape, negotiated with the education department. The university fired nearly 900 administrative and service staff late last year, and plans cuts among academic staff this year. It is also looking at merging operations with other campuses, such as the equally troubled University of the Transkei and the University of Port Elizabeth.

The education department, meanwhile, smoothed things over with Fort Hare's bank, giving an undertaking in November that the university would receive a government subsidy in 1998. "Our back was against the wall," says David Katzke, deputy vice-chancellor of finance and administration. "If we hadn't embarked on this exercise we would have been in a terrible state now."

The government provides the bulk of funding for tertiary education, supplying a total subsidy of nearly R4,9-billion last year. But years of declining subsidies have forced most institutions to cut costs, initially by freezing



**Pay as you learn: Cecil Abrahams (right) awaits his installation as University of the Western Cape vice-chancellor. PHOTO: RODGER BOSCH**

posts but in recent months by closing or merging departments and axing staff.

Wits University, the University of Stellenbosch, the University of Cape Town and the University of Natal are among those that have embarked on major restructuring over the past year. Bengu is hoping this year's subsidy level will at least keep pace with inflation, giving campuses a little more breathing space.

But historically disadvantaged institutions are further burdened. Few have attracted the level of donor funding channelled to traditionally white universities. Most are also saddled with high student debt. Much of it dates back to the apartheid years, but much is new.

Debt at the University of the North has climbed to R83-million from R54-million last year. Officials among such institutions blame a combination of poor management, the hangover from years of boycotts, and the widespread poverty among their students.

Student income normally covers institutions' costs until they receive their first payment from the government subsidy, due in April. But student debt is so high this year that some institutions are only surviving thanks to their banks' generosity.

UWC vice-chancellor Cecil Abrahams told his staff last week the institution had already reached its overdraft limit.

"Should students fail to pay off last year's debt and contribute to the 1998 budget we are faced with closure."

UWC's nearly 8 000 student debtors include the head of its student representative council, who owes R20 700. Abrahams retreated from the closure threat this week as he unveiled plans to get students to pay what they owe, and to pay fees for the new year upfront. The proposals immediately sparked demonstrations on the campus.

His initial warning, contained in an inter-

nal memo, has also outraged staff. Management has already indicated the university cannot afford salary increases this year. Many staff want Abrahams's assurance that such austerity also extends to his office.

The University of Zululand, owed R55-million by students, from R24-million last year, says UWC's woes and hardline stance are typical. "How long can you continue to function on an ever-increasing overdraft?" asks director of public relations and development Dirk Rezelma.

"We're being billed R10 000 a day by the bank for the overdraft, but we can't pay it because we don't have the money. The crunch time is upon us."

Operating costs at the campus have already been cut by 40%. One of the savings includes management funding only the cost of two toilet rolls per staff member a year. Rector Charles Dlamini has also warned his 1 600 staff that the campus will be forced into massive retrenchments.

A representative for Njabulo Ndebele, vice-chancellor of the University of the North, says job cuts and paid-up fees have now become the reality. "If you can't pay your fees you can't have a university," he adds. "It's got nothing to do with politics, students must spare us the history lesson. They must pay up or that's it. We can't survive."

Fort Hare's strategy to recover fees included approaching students' parents. Of the campus's 5 000 students, management found that just 112 students were too poor to pay.

Its student debt stood at R26-million at the start of December, R6-million higher than the previous year. But the university says the rate of growth has slowed.

Essop adds that the number of universities and technikons is likely to drop over the next few years, as the department reassesses the country's higher education needs.

"We have to look at what configuration is optimal," he adds. "These questions will have to be addressed, irrespective of the financial constraints."

'WE CAN'T AFFORD THESE FLAGRANT AMOUNTS'

ET 30/1/98

(514)

# Mass student meetings at UWC ends in brawl

**STUDENTS OWING** UWC R52 million in outstanding fees, believe the stipulated minimum payments are "flagrantly high". Education Writer **TROYE LUND** reports.

**A** MASS student meeting, called to devise a way to stop the University of the Western Cape (UWC) management from refusing to register students who do not make upfront minimum fee payments, ended yesterday in a brawl.

Students, who owe the university R52 million in outstanding fees, believe these stipulated minimum payments — 40% of what they owe in total — are "flagrantly high".

Of the 7 000 student debtors, 1 732 owe more than R10 000 and 988 more than R25 000.

"It is fair to acknowledge that there are students who are not honest — they can pay but do not," Student Representative Council communications officer Mr Thabho Masombuka told the meeting.

Clearly visible and prominent in many rows were students sporting expensive, hip outfits, with equally lavish accessories.

It is not free education for all that the SRC wants.

Besides presenting the mass meeting with a proposal it called "middle of the road", the SRC has called for a system or "test of integrity" to determine which students are really poor and what

minimum payments each individual is able to contribute towards his/her education.

If successfully implemented, the proposal — which could not be accepted or rejected before the meeting broke up — would raise a total of R37 million.

This would enable the university to function until it gets its R143m government subsidy in April.

Minimum upfront amounts, which the SRC believes are affordable, would raise R23m from returning students and R17m from new students (see box).

A notice given to all students at the meeting yesterday reads: "Our proposals are rooted in our principle of a moratorium on financial exclusions. Our position entails both our commitment to assisting the university gather at least a substantial proportion of what is required for the next two months and the fact that the minimum payments ... are too huge and unaffordable ... The majority of students cannot afford these flagrant amounts."

University rector Professor Cecil Abrahams said earlier this week that the university planned to raise R23m from students at registration. The university also intends

committing all parents and guardians to paying off the rest of the debt this year.

At the meeting yesterday, speakers from the floor raised other financial issues seen to be contributing to further hardships for poor students.

These issues — which the SRC will put to UWC management during fee negotiations — included:

- Students being included in drawing up the university budget. This will satisfy them that money is being fairly used. Much unhappiness was expressed at the meeting that 70% of the budget was currently being spent on salaries for university staff.

- Taking UWC's plight as a university, with a disadvantaged student community, directly to the government. Speakers demanded that the government honour the constitutional right to education.

- Launching mass action if the university enforced plans to exclude students who could not come up with the 40% minimum payments at registration.

As speakers became more militant, the crowd became more excited, until one speaker, who refused to sit down, was accosted by an upset Rastafarian.

It was just short of a free-for-all, but members of the SRC broke up the brawl and declared the meeting postponed until Monday.

R1 501 and R5 000 must repay

30% of their debt, plus R2 000 or R1 500 upfront, depending on whether they are in residence.

- Students who owe between R5 001 and R10 000 must contribute a minimum of 25%, plus R1 500 or R1 000 upfront.

- Students who owe between R10 001 and R15 000 must repay a minimum of 20%, plus R1 000 or

R500 upfront.

- Students who owe between R15 001 and R25 000 must repay a minimum of 15%, plus an extra R500 for those in residence.

- Students owing more than R25 001 (so-called extreme cases) must make a minimum contribution of 15%, and special arrangements should be made to cover the balance of the debt.



**JUSTICE?** Ayanda Sithole stands to be precluded from his final year of study this year. **PICTURES: THEMENKOSI DWAYISA**

## 'I believe I have done my level best to pay my fees'

"I believe I have done my level best to contribute to my education," said final year Bachelor of Arts student Mr Ayanda Sithole. He will not be allowed to study this year if he does not pay a minimum of R9 000 at registration next week.

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) has declared that the R52 million that students owe in outstanding fees is a burden the university has to eliminate if it is to stay open.

Students have been warned that they will not be allowed to register this year if they do not arrive at registration with a lump sum equal to 40% of their total debt.

Because Sithole's parents live in the Transkei and cannot support him, he works at a well-known car dealership in Bellville on weekends and on the days he does not have lectures.

The car dealership pays him R1 900 a month. "With this I have to pay rent ... and I have to feed and clothe myself and pay for transport to and from university," he said, adding that banks had refused to give him a loan without guarantors.

Sithole's bank account has R1 400 in it. Even if he presents his "life savings" and lives on "fresh air" for a few weeks, it will not be enough to register for his final year. He said: "I intend to pay the money back when I am working. With a degree I will be far more employable and in a better position to pay the debt off." — Education Writer



**FIGHTING FOR HIS RIGHTS:** Tengwa Makhenkwe hawks for a living and wants to become a teacher.

## 'There is no way I can get this kind of money'

HAWKING fruit and vegetables in Nyanga squatter camp brings in just enough to live on, but not enough to pay the university fees of a Rastafarian would-be teacher.

Third-year Bachelor of Education student Mr Tengwa Makhenkwe owes the University of the Western Cape R10 000 in outstanding fees.

He believes the 40% minimum of R4 000 which UWC management has demanded of him, in return for registration this year, is completely unacceptable.

Said Makhenkwe: "There is no way I can get this kind of money. I speak that truly."

His parents are unemployed and live in Transkei. He and his brother live in a Nyanga shack.

Makhenkwe has tried to find other work besides hawking but said: "It is very difficult to find work. Someone identifiable as a Rastafarian does not easily find employment."

The government, he said, must realise that education is a right. He believes all those paying fees should stop to show solidarity with the working classes who cannot afford payments, and that the university and government should be pressurised into action to "keep the doors of learning open".

He is determined that no exclusions policy will stop him from becoming a teacher. — Education Writer

## SRC proposals on repayment

THIS is a summary of the student proposal to curb financial exclusions from the University of the Western Cape (UWC):

- Students who owe R1 500 or less must repay their debt in full, plus R2 500 (for those in residence) and/or R2 000 (those not in residence) as a deposit on this year's fees.

- Students who owe between

R1 501 and R5 000 must repay 30% of their debt, plus R2 000 or R1 500 upfront, depending on whether they are in residence.

- Students who owe between R5 001 and R10 000 must contribute a minimum of 25%, plus R1 500 or R1 000 upfront.

- Students who owe between R10 001 and R15 000 must repay a minimum of 20%, plus R1 000 or

R500 upfront.

- Students who owe between R15 001 and R25 000 must repay a minimum of 15%, plus an extra R500 for those in residence.

- Students owing more than R25 001 (so-called extreme cases) must make a minimum contribution of 15%, and special arrangements should be made to cover the balance of the debt.



# Mass arrests at UWC

ET 2/12/98

(54)



**TIME'S UP:** Police arrest students who defied an order to vacate all residences by 2pm yesterday. The university has moved all students off the campus in an attempt to get those who owe fees to pay.

PICTURE: BENNY GOOL

**MORE THAN 300** University of the Western Cape students who defied an ultimatum to leave the residences by 2pm yesterday were arrested and charged with trespassing. **LINDIZ VAN ZILLA** and **ERIC NTABAZILALA** report.

**P**OLICE arrested hundreds of students yesterday as the University of the Western Cape put into effect its hardline policy to recover more than R50 million in outstanding fees.

More than 300 students defied an order by the university's management to vacate campus residences by 2pm yesterday.

They were bundled into police personnel carriers and taken to the Bellville South police station, where they were charged with trespassing.

According to Superintendent Jan Molomons of the Bellville South police station, 308 students were charged and released. They were warned to appear in the Bellville Magistrate's Court tomorrow morning.

The arrests followed a tense five-hour stand-off between the students, university management, campus security and heavily-armed police.

At 12.30am today, a group of about 100 students were toyi-toying from the police station down Modderdam Road to the campus. It appeared they could spend the night outside the gate.

According to SRC sources at the police station, the university had offered to withdraw the trespass charges provided the students stayed away from the campus.

Earlier, as the students were being

arrested, the university set plans in motion to bar the doors to all residences. But last night students were being allowed to sleep on campus — on condition that they first paid outstanding fees and registered at campus control.

The university was also making arrangements last night to allow the students who had been arrested to enter the residences — in groups of 10 at a time — to collect their possessions.

Student registration is to continue at the university gates today. No student is to be allowed on campus until the required fees have been paid.

Students and the management have been wrangling for several weeks over the university's insistence that it will have to close unless its student body, which is deeply in debt, comes up with a "minimum admission contribution" of 40% of the amount owing.

Students owe more than R52 million. According to the university, there are about 7 000 student debtors, of whom 1 732 owe more than R10 000 and 988 more than R25 000.

Student organisations believe "no student should be excluded on the grounds that they are indigent", but management has stood by its decision to impose the 40% admission payment.

On Saturday, students, in a reaction to weeks of failed negotiation, disrupted registration.

In the wake of the disruption, the rector, Professor Cecil Abrahams, issued a tersely-worded circular announcing the suspension of the registration process, the closure of all residences on the campus, and an ultimatum to students to vacate all residences by 2pm yesterday.

The ultimatum caused panic among students, who tried frantically to arrange transport and other accommodation. Most had arrived on campus early to prepare for orientation week.

The university said yesterday it had cancelled orientation week and tomorrow's proposed open-day for parents.

Scores of students hurriedly packed and left the campus before the 2pm deadline yesterday.

Between 300 and 400 students, who apparently had nowhere to go, were left stranded.

Many shrugged when asked if they would abide by the ultimatum.

"Where are we supposed to go?" they said. Many of them are from out of town.

As the deadline approached and news spread that the university had called in the police to help with the evictions, students decided to fortify themselves in the Cecil Esau residence.

Two o'clock came and went with a fleet of armoured police vehicles parked outside the university's main entrance, awaiting instructions. The instruction to move in eventually came at 4.15pm.

But the need for forceful police action was averted when student leaders assured police that they would not resist arrest.

However, the students insisted they would not give themselves up "voluntarily" — and it was left to the police to give an obligatory five-minute countdown to allow students to leave.

In a show of defiance, the gates to the Cecil Esau residence were locked and the students retreated to the inner quad to toyi-toyi and sing liberation songs.

As the deadline approached, members of the public order policing unit entered the residence and peacefully escorted students along a pathway to the waiting police vehicles.

The two police personnel carriers were not enough and police had to call several armoured vehicles and patrol vans to ferry students to the Bellville South police station.

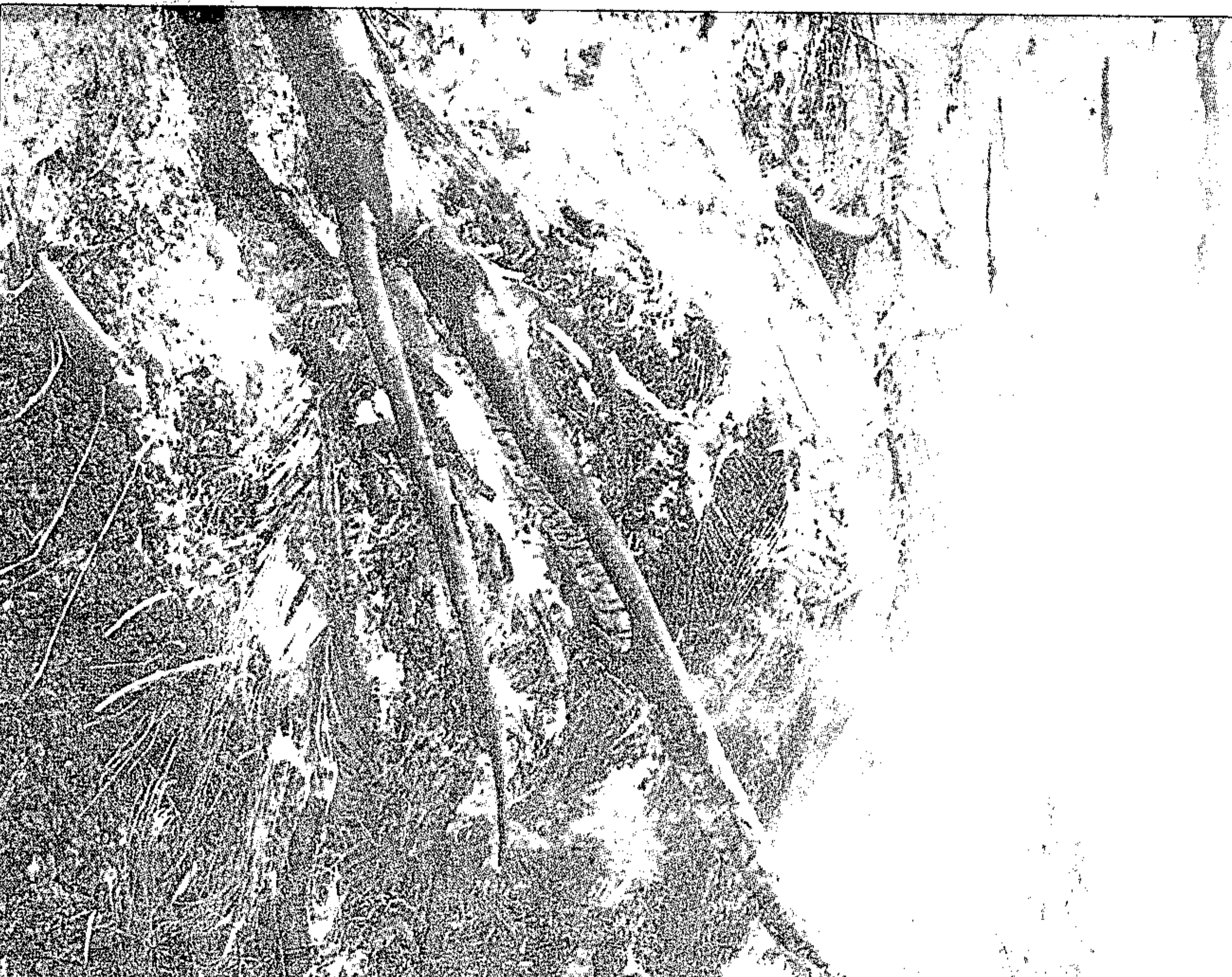
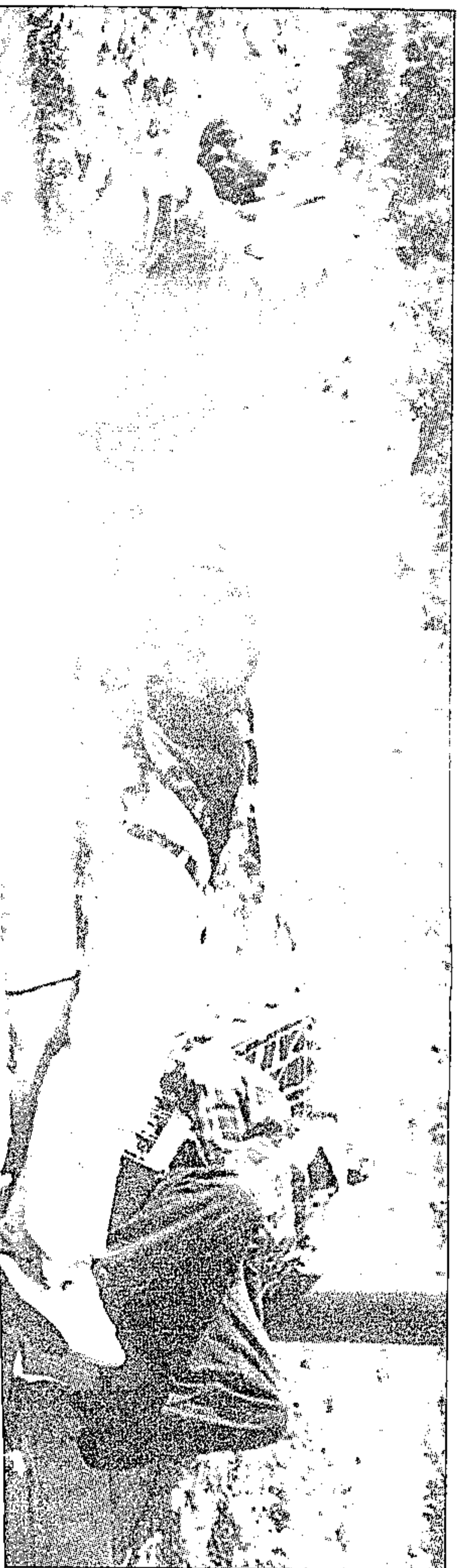
Earlier, the South African Students' Congress (Sasco) condemned the university administration for evicting students from the residences.

It criticised the university's attempts to "exclude students by applying a 40% across-the-board minimum contribution" while "substantial progress was on track on the negotiating table".

Sasco also blamed the university authorities for not heeding students' suggested solutions.

The students had proposed that the university "research and draw the economic profile of each student".

They had also suggested that the university establish a unit dedicated to collecting arrears.



Roughing it: expelled students sleep outside the UWC campus near the remains of a fire started during the night to keep them warm

JOHAN SCHROENEN

## UWC stand-off after chaotic night

ARG 2/2/98

From page 1

the main entrance, where police sealed off the premises with crime-scene tape.

The road was littered with charred branches, straw and smouldering tyres. Earlier, students lay asleep in groups on the lawn and pavements outside the gates.

Last night, the South African Students' Congress called on President Mandela to intervene in the crisis.

General secretary Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said the organisation's national leadership would travel to

Cape Town to discuss the crisis with the university's management and try to persuade them to allow students to return to residences while negotiations continued.

In a statement, the university said students were evicted for illegally occupying residences, disrupting student registration on Saturday and threatening to upset orientation week. "The university regrets that it was forced to adopt these measures, but wishes to assure all our students that a concerted effort will be made to minimise any negative effects on the academic programme."

# Stand-off after UWC fee chaos

(54) **Students arrested**  
ARG 2/2/98

CAROL CAMPBELL AND JOHAN SCHROENEN  
STAFF REPORTERS

University of the Western Cape students and authorities were still in a stand-off at the campus gates today after a night of disruption and chaos.

Several hundred students were camped outside the main gate of the university this afternoon after they were expelled from campus yesterday.

As new students, many in Cape Town for the first time, arrived from around the country, laden with baggage, they joined the crowds lying on the grass.

The lack of toilets, water and shelter from the sun was taking its toll and many students were desperately trying to make alternative arrangements for accommodation tonight.

The university was allowing students to go back to residences, two at a time, to get their belongings.

Women students were being given priority by student leaders, who were arranging with students from nearby Peninsula Technikon to share accommodation. Lawyers from V J Botto were called to the

campus by the student council to liaise with university lawyers in a bid to defuse the situation.

Mr Vincent Botto said the situation was sensitive and no decisions had been reached. "Last night, the students were bluntly refused permission to stay on the campus. Something has to be done quickly.

"We can't let the situation get emotional. We have to do something," said Mr Botto.

Yesterday, at the request of university authorities, police in riot kit evicted students from two residences where they had been squatting since returning in early January at the request of student leaders.

More than 300 were arrested and charged with trespassing.

The "illegal" students were on campus to press the university to admit those who could not pay arrears fees or fees for the new year.

The university, which is owed R32-million in unpaid fees, is due to open for orientation week tomorrow.

Today hundreds of students, lecturers and administrative staff gathered outside

# Gauteng faces student upheaval

Protests promised over non-admission of those who can't pay

By RYAN CRESSWELL

Student protests which caused chaos in the Western Cape at the weekend could move to Gauteng within the next few weeks.

Protest action will range from insistent negotiations to sit-ins and mass marches as students try to force tertiary institutions to admit students who are in arrears, can't pay admission fees or do not fit current academic registration requirements, according to South African Student Congress (Sasco) national secretary Tshilidzi Ratshitanga.

The University of the Western Cape, which is owed more than R50-million in arrears, has seen mayhem over the past few days with 308 students arrested by riot police for trespassing after they invaded the campus in protest against a decision to bar those who could not pay up.

Some of them have been squatting in residences since

early last month.

The students were released on Sunday night and ordered to appear in the Bellville Magistrates' Court today.

Orientation week for first-year students, which includes an open day for parents, was due to start yesterday but was cancelled. The main campus will remain closed until a revised registration process has been completed.

"An alternative method of registration will be implemented that will enable students to register and/or verify their registration by post or by electronic means," the university said in a statement.

It said no more students would be allowed into residence until further notice.

Now some Gauteng tertiary institutions face similar action from angry student organisations.

Ratshitanga said each institution in Gauteng would be looked at individually by the organisation and treated differ-

ently. He said the student body hoped negotiations would be enough, but in certain cases sit-ins and mass marches were definitely on the cards.

"A meeting of all our Gauteng branches will be held this weekend. Then we will be able to say which places will be affected. But a general march will probably be held to the 'most hostile institution' towards the middle of the month," said Ratshitanga.

He said the Government had called on institutions to collect outstanding fees last year and they were reacting to this call in various ways: "We hope that the Government will now provide an emergency fund so students can at least begin this academic year."

Mark Weinburg, Sasco secretary for information and publicity in Gauteng, said the student body did not believe in privileged education where only those with money got anywhere. He said this did not redress the injustices of the past.

He said Sasco in Gauteng was trying to convene a meeting with as many principals as possible in an effort to avoid "exclusivity".

Weinburg, a Witwatersrand University student, said he did not expect student action at his institution because of agreements with management, but there would probably be volatile protests at other places.

Wits spokesman Peggy Jennings said university management did not expect trouble.

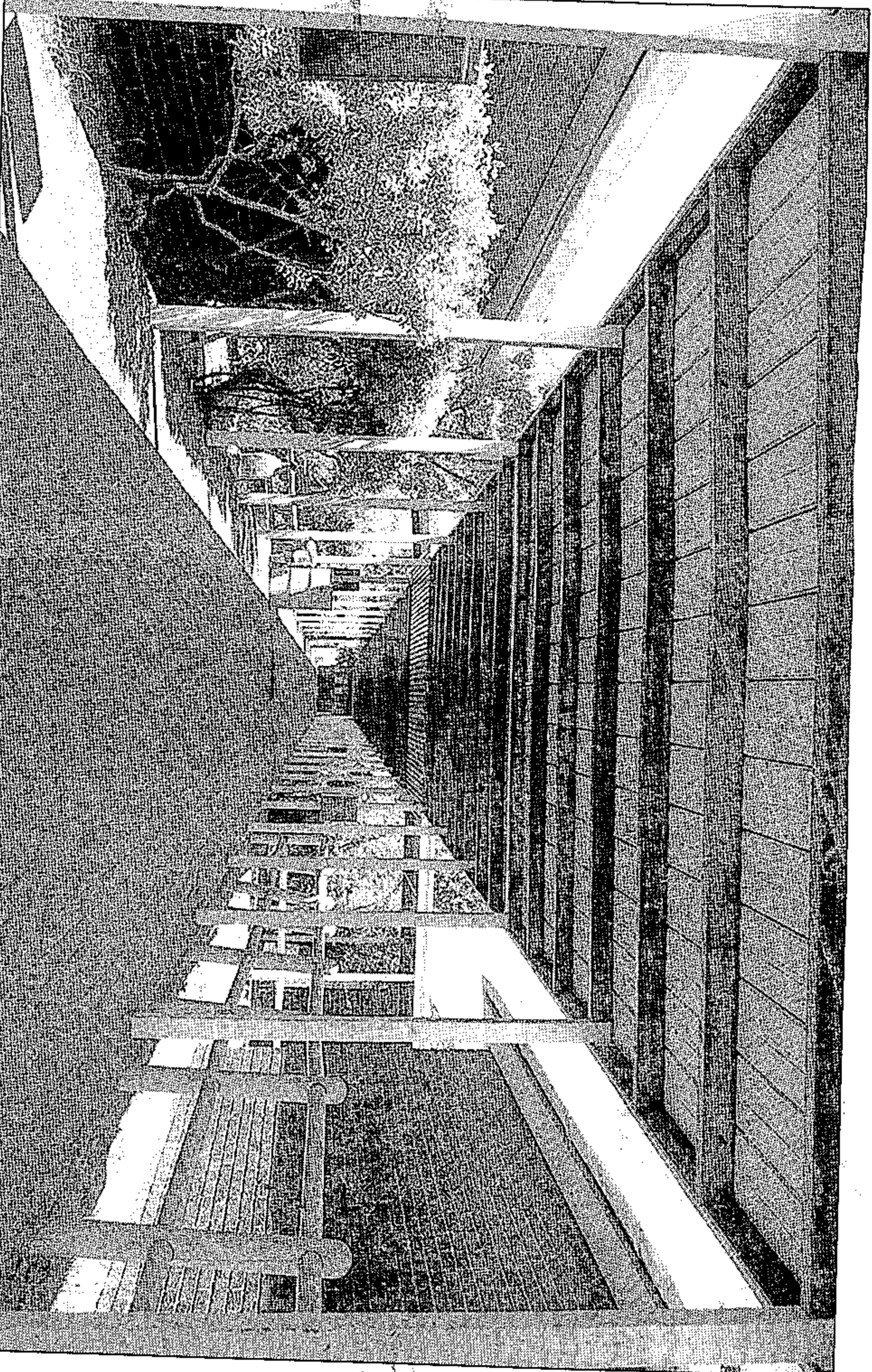
She said Wits - which opens on February 17 - was still owed R10-million in outstanding fees but this would decrease over the next few weeks. She said it was policy to re-admit only those who could pay, but roll-over loans and other financial schemes were available.

A spokesman for Technikon Pretoria said the college opened three weeks ago but there had been no protests so far. She said the technikon was still owed R10,9-million in arrears.

Star 3/2/98 (54)



**CASUALTY:** Third-year student Parello Murnyal says it is impossible for him to make the R7 500 minimum payment that UWC is asking from him if he wants to register. He passed with distinction last year and believes that talented students should not be excluded because they lack money.



**EXCLUSIVE GROUND:** The UWC campus has been closed and registration will be done by post or electronically. Students will be registered only if they pay a lump sum equal to 40% of their debt to the university.

PICTURES: THEMIBINKOSI DWAYISA

# UWC students have nowhere to go

BY 3/2/98

(57)

(57)

**TROYE LUND**  
 DESOLATE corridors, bolted doors and patrolling Rottweilers set the scene on campus. A loudhailer exhorted the exhausted masses heaped on grassy patches and in shaded flowerbeds at the boundary of the University of the Western Cape:  
 "Let's not stop our liberation spirit. Sing the songs of freedom. University management promised to come back to us in half an hour. We have demanded they let us into residence for a few hours to use the toilets at least."  
 But after getting little sleep or nourishment since their arrest for trespassing on campus 24 hours earlier, protesters found the idea of more liberation songs wearing thin.  
 "Absolutely impossible, we're hungry," said a voice from under a blanket.

Everyone agreed. Things had gone too far. One student said: "They lock us out and expect us to pay. Because I am having to find a place to stay I am spending the R5 000 that my family gave me to pay fees."  
 When they returned to university on Saturday — as they were supposed to — students were told by management to leave campus by Sunday. Some left, but the majority — including first years — stayed put.  
 Those who remained, 308 according to police, were arrested and charged with trespassing. They will appear in the Bellville Magistrate's

Court today.  
 First year student Ms Belinda Ndlovu said: "When I arrived on the bus on Saturday from the Transkei I was told that the SRC was fighting with the management and that we were not allowed into residence."  
 "We agreed not to leave and to stay together with the other students in the same boat. I had no idea that I would have to pay R4 500 at registration. My friends did not have to do this last year. I don't have that kind of money with me and have nowhere to stay tonight."  
 ● See Page 8



**TOO MUCH TOY-TOY:** One of the students arrested at UWC on Sunday catches up

# Impasse continues at UWC

ET 3/2/98

(54)

**TROYE LUND**  
EDUCATION WRITER

THE University of the Western Cape (UWC) agreed to meet student leaders late last night, but failed to resolve the impasse between management and students on the payment of outstanding fees.

The pleas for accommodation on behalf of 300 hungry, exhausted students who had been arrested and charged with trespassing and were now camping on the campus boundary — failed to move the authorities.

Management reiterated that no students would be allowed on campus until they had registered by post or electronic medium.

Only students who paid the minimum required in advance would be registered.

The university is owed

R52 million in fees by 7 000 students and feels the only way to recoup this is to trade an upfront minimum payment for registration.

Although students were due to arrive back on campus this week-end in time for orientation week and registration, UWC management decided to break with tradition at the last minute.

All orientation and parent programmes planned for this week have been cancelled until the registration by correspondence is complete.

This decision followed a fruitless two weeks of negotiating with students, who threatened mass action if they were excluded.

UWC management is determined to recover at least R23m of the R52m owed.

Students don't want free education and agree with the imposi-

tion of a minimum payment at registration.

But the bones of contention are how much this payment should be and what should become of students who cannot afford the minimum payment.

The SRC is insisting that the university assess each student's "level of indigency" so that those who "genuinely cannot pay" are accommodated.

Students rejected UWC management proposals that debtors pay minimum amounts equal to 40% of their debt.

All new and returning students would have to pay a minimum upfront sum of R2 000 for tuition and R2 500 for residence, according to UWC management plans.

Because most student debtors would have to come up with minimum payments exceeding R8 000, the SRC rejected this plan and pre-

sented an alternative scheme.

The SRC proposal, which would raise R37m at registration — and which management has agreed to consider — states that students owing R 1 500 or less should pay in full.

Other student debtors would pay minimum amounts according to the following sliding scale: those owing between R1 501 and R5 000 pay 30%; between R5 001 and R10 000 pay 25%; between R10 001 and R15 000 pay 20% and those owing more than R15 000 pay 15%.

The main dispute is that the SRC demands that students who claim they cannot pay the minimum amounts should be assessed and, if they prove sufficiently indigent, be allowed to continue studying. UWC management disagrees.

● See Page 3

# UWC closes in face of fees protests

Jonathan Davis

THE University of the Western Cape (UWC) was closed yesterday as protests against the exclusion of students with outstanding fees continued.

UWC rector Cecil Abrahams is due to meet education department deputy director Masima Babsha today, with massive student debt and the readmission of students with outstanding tuition fees believed to be on the agenda.

Students last night continued their vigil outside the university entrance, protesting against the arrest on the campus on Sunday of 300 students on trespassing charges. The students were later released and are to appear in court today.

The university's closure forced the postponement of student registrations. SA Students' Congress (Sasco) sec-

BO 3/2/98  
retary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said the education department had agreed to intervene.

Thami Mseleko, an adviser to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, said, however, that today's meeting was a scheduled part of "the continuing facilitation process between the department and the university". But Mseleko did confirm he had put Sasco representatives who had contacted him about the UWC crisis in contact with Babsha.

Earlier, Sasco threatened to delay academic registration at institutions which refused to readmit students with outstanding fees. "It is not correct that admissions should go ahead while the fate of students has been delayed and frustrated by these institutions," said Ratshitanga.

He said protests would target UWC, the University of the North and Fort

(54)  
Hare University, where he said the administration had broken off discussions with Sasco.

Further protest action at other universities "would be guided by the attitudes of these institutions".

However, University of the North media officer DK Mohuba and an official at the University of Fort Hare said registration had gone ahead at the two campuses yesterday.

Later, Ratshitanga said University of Fort Hare rector Mbulelo Mzamane would meet student leaders today to discuss outstanding tuition fees. He said Sasco and students' representative council members at UWC and the University of the North would meet last night to determine their positions.

UWC is owed more than R50m in tuition fees by students. The University of Fort Hare is owed R14,5m.

# Riot vans greet students

CAROL CAMPBELL  
SPECIAL WRITER

ARG 3/2/98

(54)

**First year students arrived at the University of the Western Cape from around the country yesterday to find the campus sealed off, and police in riot vans.**

But university authorities stepped in to help youngsters register, have a meal and settle into their residences.

Robert Ndou, 19, of Louis Trichardt in Northern Province, waited forlornly at the side of the road leading into the university for some word from campus administrators about where he would spend the night.

The exhausted student left home at 10am on Sunday and travelled through the night by bus to get to Cape Town.

"I don't feel very well - I'm so

tired," he said.

Mmakoma Ramothata, 18, of Pretoria said she understood the older students' debt predicament.

"I really want to study here because all my brothers and sisters graduated from UWC," she said.

Mogomotsi Moremedi, 22, from Rustenburg in North West Province, said he believed UWC had higher standards than other "black" universities which was why he had been determined to come to Cape Town to study.

"There was also no trouble here last year," he said.

Answer Nkuna, 18, of Bushbuckridge in Mpumalanga, said it was frustrating waiting in Modderdam Road after the long bus ride.

"Education in Cape Town is good, which is why I have come to study here," she said.

# Varsity staff face chop

## Varsity staff face the chop

From page 1

ARL 3/2/98

(54)

who owed R14 000 including hostel fees, said the university administration was being "unfair".

University of the Western Cape rector Cecil Abrahams has hinted that his university is in for some restructuring as he tries desperately to make the institution financially viable. Students owe the university more than R50-million in arrears fees. The UCT is also cutting costs. The education faculty has been discontin-

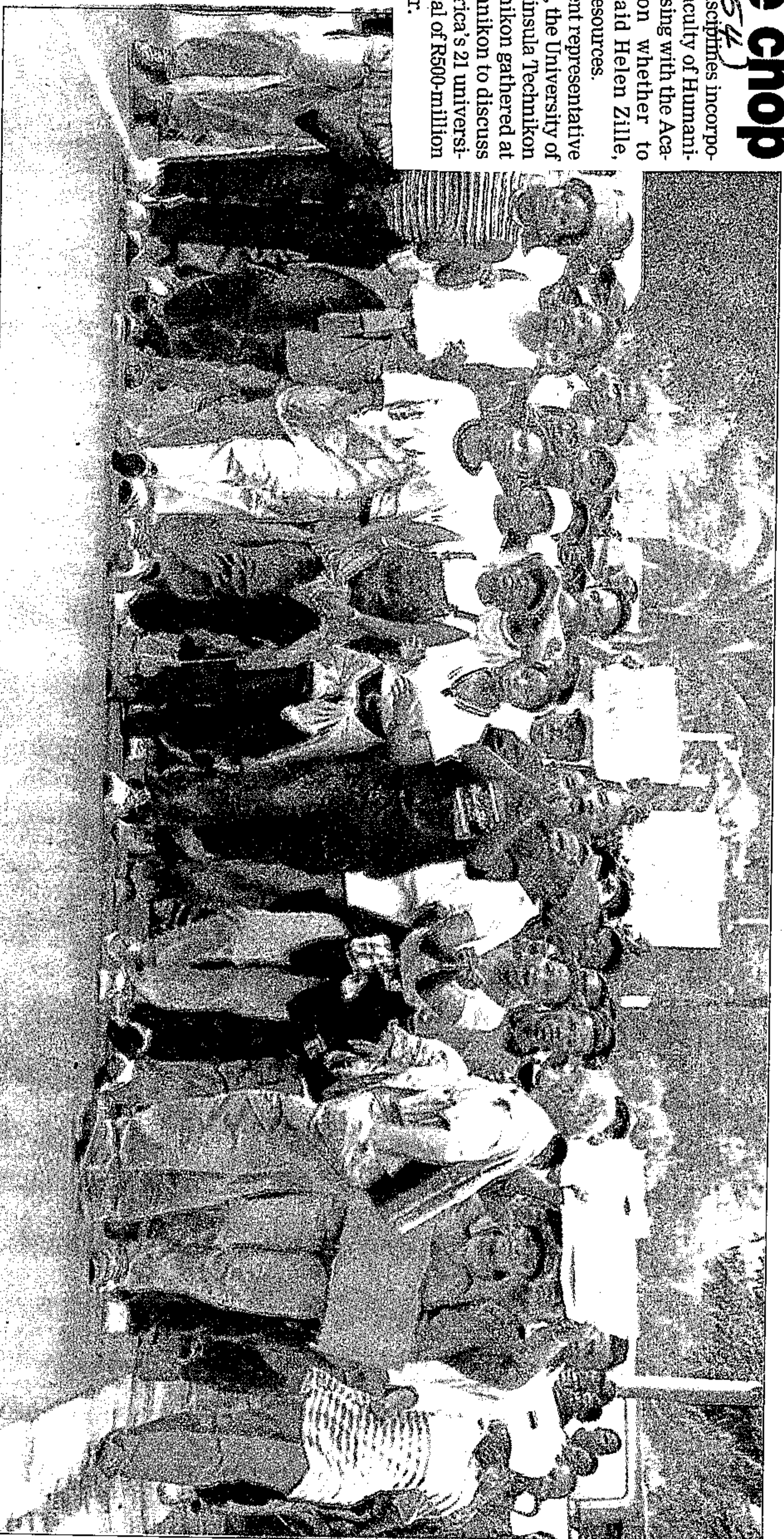
ued and its major disciplines incorporated in the new Faculty of Humanities. "We are discussing with the Academic Association whether to retrench staff," said Helen Zille, director of human resources.

Last night, student representative councils from UWC, the University of Cape Town, the Peninsula Technikon and the Cape Technikon gathered at the Peninsula Technikon to discuss the crisis. South Africa's 21 universities were owed a total of R500-million at the end of last year.



BRENTON GEACH

Victim: UWC students wait to hear if they can return to residences



Protest: students march on the Bellville Magistrate's Court to show solidarity with 300 others who were to appear on charges of trespassing at UWC. Riot vans greet students, page 3

HANNES THART

# Jobs under threat as UWC crisis spreads

TAFF REPORTERS AND SAPA

ARL 3/2/98

(54)

Academic and support staff at the universities of the Western Cape and Cape Town face job losses as administrators battle to keep the institutions running in spite of huge debts.

Both universities have hinted that restructuring will take place, although nothing has been finalised yet.

Negotiations at UWC will probably take place only once immediate problems of student registration have been resolved.

In the Bellville Magistrate's Court today UWC students arrested at the weekend for allegedly trespassing on university property began appearing in groups of 20 just before noon.

About 30 heavily armed policemen guarded the doors of the court building and more than 350 students toy-toyed and sang

protest songs outside with student representative council president Goodenough Kodwa appealing for calm.

The students, who are in arrears with their fees and who had been asked to leave the campus to make way for this year's crop of students, were arrested in the early hours of Monday morning.

Most of the students turned up at 9am as instructed, but were kept waiting outside while student leaders negotiated with senior

magistrate Pieter van Jaarsveld about how many could appear at a time.

About 11am, with the sun beating down, Mr Kodwa emerged from the building and told students they would be allowed into the building in batches of 100 and would appear in court in groups of 20.

Mr Kodwa said a few students had not turned up because they had spent last night locked out of the campus with no food. He did not know how many were missing. They

would be identified when their names were called for them to appear.

He said the SRC was negotiating with Mr Van Jaarsveld not to issue warrants of arrest for the missing students.

No charges were put to the students and their cases were postponed to March 9.

Outside the court, Khayelethu Rholo of Uitenhage, a management honours student



# Debt stands in way of an old chief's

Arg 3/2/98 (54)

CAROL CAMPBELL  
SPECIAL WRITER

In a rural village in Sekhukhuneland in the Northern Province 20 years ago, an old chief told his eldest son by his fourth wife that his heritage was to be educated, not to be chief.

The boy knew he would never be the chief because his elder brothers, the sons of the second wife and chosen queen, were first in line.

The old man was blind and the little boy was responsible for leading him around so they had time to talk. His father told him he should study to become a doctor or a

magistrate because then he would be free of poverty and able to help his people.

Not long afterwards the chief died. The fourth wife and her children were forced to move away from his kraal because the second wife got jealous of the little boy,

Picture, page 3

fearing he might one day overthrow her own son and seize power of the tribe.

The child, determined to live up to his father's wishes, studied hard and passed matric and was accepted at university, the only one of the chief's children to go beyond Standard 6. To help him on his

way a Roman Catholic priest paid the first R800 he needed for university registration.

All this might sound like a Rider Haggard novel but in fact it is the true story of David Mashishi, a final-year commerce student at the University of the Western Cape.

David, now 31, is very close to achieving his father's dream but he owes UWC R25 000 in unpaid fees, which means that unless he can come up with R10 000 he will not be allowed back this year.

In the December holidays his uncle, a builder in the Northern Province, gave him a job as a labourer on a building site

dream

and David managed to scrape together R5 000 towards his debt.

His mother is illiterate and was left with nothing when her husband died.

Because David was her eldest son the responsibility of providing for her and his brothers and sisters fell on his shoulders.

After school he worked picking cotton or oranges for white farmers to raise money to pay for their school uniforms and books.

He is desperate to be done with studying so that he can get married and have a family. He wants to build a house for his

## R10 000 to make dream come true

Arg 3/2/98

From page 1

(54)

mother and save for a wedding, an expensive affair in Pedi society.

He will pay for his studies as soon as he can get a "proper" job.

"I came to UWC because it was cheaper than other universities and not as unstable as Turfloop, which was closer to my home," he said.

"I am also an adventurous fellow and I wanted to see the world and mix with other cultures like the coloureds and the Xhosa."

David just shakes his head when asked why his mother cannot take more responsibility for his studies.

"She can't even give me R10 for food on the bus trip from Johannesburg to Cape Town. The cost of my studies, even at school, has always been my responsibility."

David, a former SRC member who has failed one year of his four-year course, doesn't know what he is going to do. "I have to get my degree - I have to finish this."

He is not angry at his lot in life but desperately frustrated.

"Why did my mother have to be the fourth wife? Why did my father have to die? Why couldn't this all have been just a little bit easier?"



Fighting for his future: UWC student David Mashishi

BRENTON GEACH

# Staff cuts at struggling universities

(54)

AVAN 4/2/98

By RYAN CRESSWELL

South African universities, owed millions in arrears by students, have already retrenched thousands of people and are considering restructuring departments and cutting down drastically on development.

Almost every university is owed millions. The University of the North is owed a crippling R83-million, the University of Zululand R55-million and the University of the Western Cape R52-million.

Most have opted for a hard-line approach and are insisting students can't register this year unless they pay their arrears and registration fees.

Student organisations, including the South African Students' Congress, have called for an emergency fund from the Government to assist those who can't pay. Sasco says it is against the perpetuation of education "exclusivity", and has threatened to march and hold sit-ins around the country.

But Dr Teboho Moja, special adviser to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, said a govern-

ment emergency fund was highly unlikely: "Such a thing would be a miracle."

One senior university official, who asked not to be named, said one university had retrenched about 1 000 people a few months ago.

He said this was caused partly by massive arrears in fees, but the lowering of government subsidies also played a major role.

Many universities now have to raise nearly 40% of their funding.

Dr Derek Swemmer, academic registrar of Wits University, said Wits had been forced to cut personnel last year to save more than R8-million, but no academics had been retrenched.

"The reason debts escalated was that we took a lenient view because the majority of students were from disadvantaged backgrounds, but we have now reached a stage where the economic reality is that this can't continue," said Carl de Villiers, public affairs manager for Zululand University.

Between R300-million and R500-million is owed by stu-

dents around the country.

Last year, students owed the University of the Orange Free State nearly R11-million, Rand Afrikaans University was owed about R3-million, the University of Pretoria was owed about R11,3-million, Fort Hare was owed about R10-million, Wits was owed nearly R15-million and the University of Natal was owed about R7,4-million. However, some of this was recouped during registration this year.

The University of Western Cape has been closed until tomorrow and the scene now seems set for a national student protest against the forced payment of arrears and fees and the current academic requirements for registration.

■ Sapa reports that more than 300 University of the Western Cape students appeared briefly in the Bellville Magistrates' court yesterday, following their arrest on Sunday for trespassing.

Magistrate Pieter van Jaarsveld warned them to appear again on March 9. No details of the charges were given and the students were not asked to plead.

# Bengu tough on student debt

(54)

CT 4/12/98

EDUCATION Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu had a tough and brief message yesterday for students and tertiary institutions that had allowed debts to accumulate to disastrous levels.

Students, especially those who had allowed huge debts to build up because they had not honoured arrangements to repay them must pay up, he said.

He also criticised universities and technikons, saying they also had a responsibility to administer and manage campuses to ensure that all fees were paid.

An adviser to Bengu, Mr Thami Mseleku, said many universities had "gone all out" to help disadvantaged students in the past by negotiating ways to pay off fees.

Debts had multiplied because students had not adhered to these agreements and universities and technikons had no mechanisms to ensure fees were paid as agreed.

Mseleku said: "There is this notion floating somewhere that the government is an endless source of money.

"This government has never had a policy of free tertiary education. It will do everything to assist students in need and has given R300 million

towards financial aid this year. This financial aid scheme may not be enough, but we are not going to condone non-payment," Mseleku said.

This follows the hard line taken last week by 17 rectors representing varsities and technikons regarded as historically disadvantaged. They said universities and technikons had to run as financially viable bodies and were left with no choice but to recover the estimated R400m that students owed them.

The University of the Western Cape, which is owed R52m, has refused to register any student who does not give a minimum payment at registration.

Other universities are set to follow this example.

Meanwhile, it has been revealed universities that are owed millions have already retrenched thousands of people and are considering restructuring departments and cutting back on development.

Almost every university is owed millions. The University of the North is owed R83m, the University of Dur-

ban-Westville R32,6m and the University of Zululand R55m.

Student organisations, including the South African Student Congress (Sasco), have called for an emergency fund from the government.

Sasco says it is against the perpetuation of apartheid and "exclusivity" of education and will march and hold sit-ins countrywide if something is not done.

But Dr Teboho Moja, special adviser to Bengu, said a government emergency fund was highly unlikely: "Such a thing would be a miracle."

Universities say they must be paid now as they face a financial "crunch".

A senior university official, who asked not to be named, said one university had retrenched about 1 000 people a few months ago.

He said this was partly caused by arrears in fees, but factors such as the lowering of government subsidies and more competition from other tertiary institutions also played a role. — Education Writer, Own Correspondent



**FIRM:** Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu

# Govt warned of crisis in student funding

(54)

Jonathan Davis

A TEAM of prominent researchers has warned of a massive shortfall in funding for disadvantaged students at SA's universities and technikons in a report submitted to the education department in October last year.

The education department has yet to respond to the report, which was compiled to "avert a crisis" in tertiary education funding.

The team includes former University of Cape Town Vice-Chancellor Stuart Saunders and economist Robert Dorrington, and the research was backed by blue-chip US philanthropic organisation The Andrew W Mellon Foundation.

The report estimates that government will need to allocate R382m to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to assist more than 80 000 needy students. Government has allocated only R337m to the scheme, although the education department applied for R400m.

The report also warns that, given increased student numbers and inflation, another R137m will be required this year to keep financial aid for students at 1996 levels.

But the warning came too late for

thousands of disadvantaged students who this week faced exclusion from cash-strapped tertiary institutions which cracked down on those with outstanding tuition fees.

The situation is worst at SA's historically black institutions, with the University of the Western Cape owed R29m by students and the University of Zululand R24m.

However, the University of Cape Town (UCT) was forced this year for the first time to turn away academically qualified applicants who could not afford tuition. "Financial aid for students has been a pressing issue for more than a decade. UCT and other institutions have been warning government for years," said UCT communications officer Helen Ziller. "This report was handed to government in October last year. We need to know what they have done with that work."

More than 300 University of Western Cape students, arrested for trespassing on Sunday after protesting against the exclusion from the university of students with outstanding tuition fees, appeared briefly in the Belville Magistrate's Court yesterday. They were not asked to plead and were warned to appear again on March 9.

The report predicts that the number

of students needing financial aid will grow to 123 000 in 2005 and 151 000 in 2010. It recommends that an additional R55m be allocated to the student financial aid scheme, with the shortfall made up of contributions from international donors to try and keep funding at 1996 levels.

It recommends that interest charged on loans from the scheme be more than the present 1% above inflation. This would help ease pressure on government funding and allow more students to benefit from financial aid. It would also allow the student aid scheme to dispense larger individual awards. The average individual award last year was R5 500.

The report also recommends broader restructuring of the Tertiary Education Fund of SA, which administers the student financial aid scheme. This would include more government representation on the fund's board in line with its increasing contribution to the student aid scheme.

Tertiary institutions have complained that the present financial aid system, administered through the tertiary fund, is based on unpredictable yearly state allocations and donor funds, and that it does not allow for a more sustainable system.

## Parastatal managers 'went on R10m spending spree'

Quentin Wray

GRAHAMSTOWN — Senior managers of former Transkei parastatal Magwa Tea Corporation went on a R10,1m spending spree after its liquidation order had been proclaimed in the Eastern Cape gazette in July.

Stuart Waymark of Ernst & Young, one of three joint liquidators of the estate, said yesterday responsibility for the splurge should fall on the corporation's bank, Bank of Transkei, as it had been informed in writing of the liquidation. Waymark said it was standard procedure for banks to freeze affected bank accounts on receipt of a liquidator's notice, so any unauthorised bank debits after July could not form part of claims against the liquidators.

Bank of Transkei MD Emil Kaltenbrunn said the delay in freezing the account was caused by the liquidator's letter being sent to the Lusikisiki branch rather than head office. Other Bank of Transkei officials conceded that inefficient internal communication prevented the information from being passed on timeously.

They also claimed that the provincial gazette published in July was rescinded by another gazette published on December 1, which changed the

date of liquidation to December 1.

As a result, the bank believed it was entitled to claim the full amount of Magwa's overdraft from the liquidators since all the disputed expenditure took place before December 1.

However, Waymark said as far as the liquidators were concerned, the original proclamation was valid, and they were proceeding with wrapping up Magwa's affairs on the strength of this.

Standard Bank media relations manager Eric Larsen confirmed the bank was a creditor to the tune of R3,6m and was "keen to see the legal proceedings finalised as soon as possible".

Waymark said the liquidators were struggling to determine the exact state of Magwa's finances due to the "appalling state" of the corporation's records. Magwa was liquidated by Eastern Cape government proclamation after reports of financial and administrative chaos.

A report from forensic auditors Price Waterhouse showed that members of Magwa's senior management used the corporation's Bank of Transkei account to pay themselves a range of benefits. This included leave pay of almost R1m, R2m to pay off company cars and R198 000 for private legal consultations.

## Reserves take a knock after debt payments

Greta Steyn

FOREIGN debt repayments and jitters over emerging markets knocked SA's gold and foreign exchange reserves last month, causing a fall of about R600m to R27,9bn.

The decline surprised economists, who expected a rise of about R400m. However, Reserve Bank deputy governor James Cross was quick to point out that January was a difficult month for emerging markets in general, and that SA weathered the storm well.

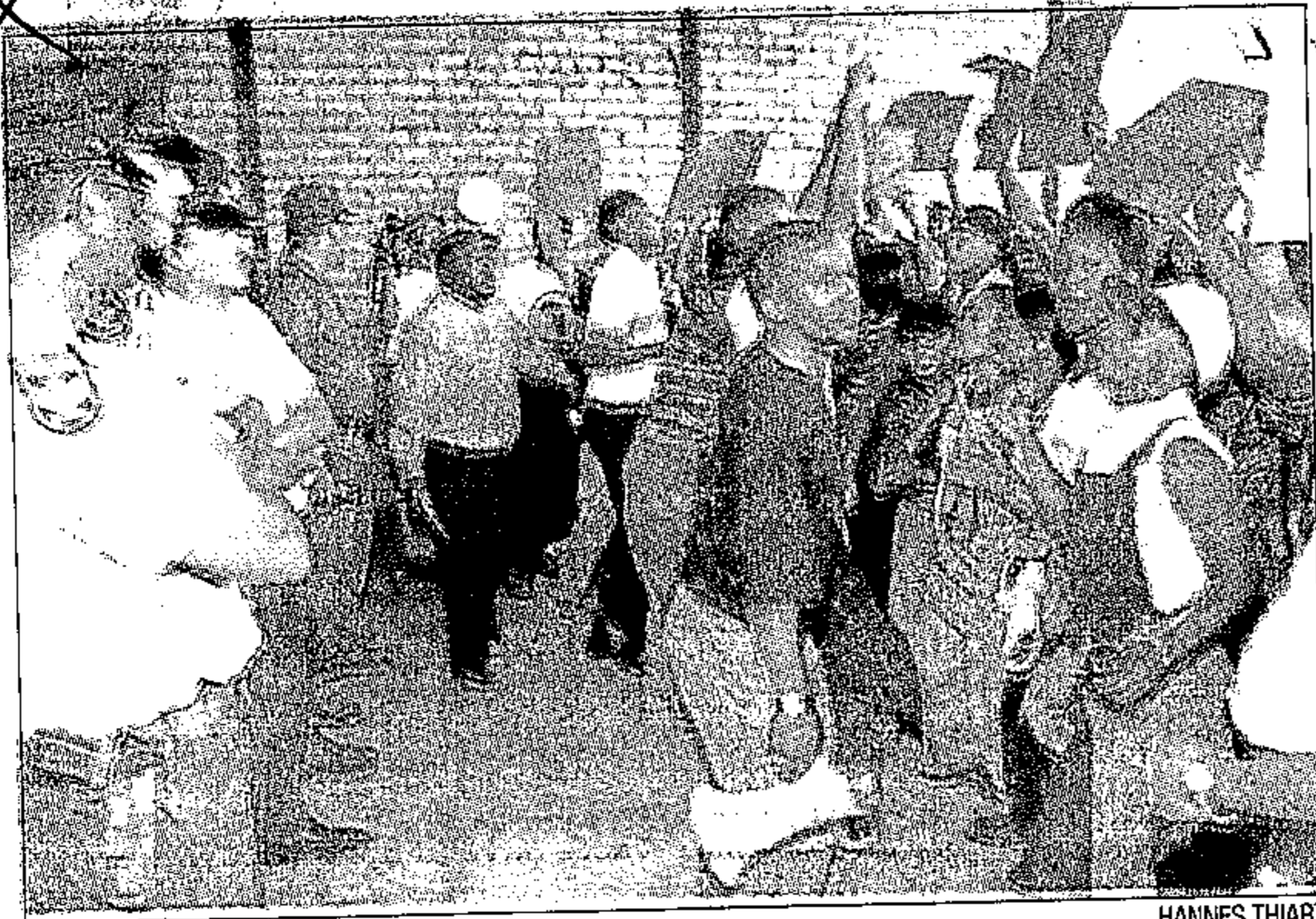
"The reserves were only marginally down if you take into account that we repaid some of our short-term borrowings. We would not have repaid those loans if there was any real pressure."

The Bank's use of foreign credit lines at the end of last month amounted to R9,4bn compared with R9,8bn at the end of December. The foreign credit lines are used to provide liquidity to the market when there is strong demand for foreign currency.

In January last year, the Bank's gold and forex reserves stood at R11,8bn and it had not made any use of foreign credit lines. The reserves last year got a major boost from privatisation proceeds, which added more than \$1bn in one fell swoop.

Cross said no such big foreign in-

Continued on Page 2



**Standoff:** students demonstrate outside the Bellville Magistrate's Court yesterday where about 300 of their colleagues appeared on charges of trespassing on the UWC campus

HANNES THIAI

## Don't forget the very poor, Bengu urges varsity chiefs

**CAROL CAMPBELL**  
SPECIAL WRITER

**Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu has appealed to university rectors not to forget the human drama of thousands of desperately poor youngsters fighting to escape poverty through education.**

Although Dr Bengu is supporting rectors of debt-ridden institutions in their battle to get money out of students and keep their campuses open, he said the plight of deserving but really poor students should not be overlooked.

The minister's spokesman, Bheki Khumalo, said that sometimes, when university administrators made "en masse" deals with student leaders, individual needs were forgotten.

Universities should try to assess each case before turning students away en masse, said Mr Khumalo.

"Finding the balance between stu-

dent needs and the institution's cash shortage is very difficult. The university authorities are responsible for running their institutions properly and we will support them in the decisions they take."

Dr Bengu did not like or want violence to be used against students and preferred campus authorities to sit around a table with them to find a way through the crisis, he said.

The minister could not intervene directly because institutions were free to recoup their debts in the way they saw best.

This year, the Government has set aside R300-million for student bursaries and loans and this has been boosted by R37-million from two businesses and foreign donors.

Democratic Party spokesman Daniel Silke blamed Dr Bengu for the universities' cash crisis.

The minister and his department should never have allowed the huge debts to increase as they had.

## 'Graduates must pay their debts'

ARC 4/2/98

SHARKEY ISAACS  
STAFF REPORTER

A substantial sum is owed to the University of the Western Cape by ex-students who have their degrees and diplomas and are working, says UWC Alumni chairman Richard Stevens.

Dr Stevens, who is also president of the university's Convocation, urged former students to settle their debts to ease the university's financial crisis. He declined to say how much the former students owed.

The university is owed R52-million in fees.

He said the university had been forced to engage the services of tracing agencies and lawyers to persuade ex-students to honour their commitments after getting jobs.

Describing his appeal as a challenge, he urged former students to develop a new culture of honouring agreements.

"After all, they walked easily enough into jobs on completing courses," Dr Stevens said.

In the apartheid era the university was lax and sympathetic to poor students. They were allowed to write examinations and this had resulted in their being snapped up in the labour market in spite of certificates being withheld until their fees were paid.

Dr Stevens said the crisis had also brought home the problem of some needy and worthy students having no bursaries and others having more than one bursary.

He suggested the establishment of a bursary database and a more equitable distribution of bursaries, and invited corporate groups to increase student sponsorship.

# Varsity accepts FW's resignation

*David James 1/2/98*

THE University of Potchefstroom yesterday expressed sadness over former state president FW de Klerk's recent resignation as chancellor – but said the move was unavoidable.

“We are a Christian institution, and we agreed with Mr de Klerk that his resignation was in the interests of the university,” spokesman Fakkie Kotze said in Potchefstroom.

De Klerk resigned on January 28, the same day that he publicly admitted his love for Elita Georgiades, the wife of a Greek millionaire.

Kotze said it was regrettable that the long relationship between De Klerk and his alma mater had to be severed. He became chancellor in 1991.

“Yes, we are sad, but we don't

condemn him. After all, we are all human beings,” he said.

De Klerk's office, in a statement in Cape Town, said he offered his apologies to rector Carools Reinecke in so far as the circumstances caused embarrassment to the university.

De Klerk felt the situation had given rise to a controversy which could not be in the interests of the

university.

“The executive committee of the university concurs with Mr de Klerk's viewpoints and accepted his resignation,” De Klerk's office said.

“They gave him the assurance that the university would support the (De Klerk) couple in their prayers during the difficult circumstances they were experiencing.”

Kotze said the council of the university would attend to the appointment of a new rector in April.

Freedom Front youth leader Mr Kallie Kriel welcomed De Klerk's decision to step down but questioned the timing of the move.

“It is a pity that he only resigned when his relationship became public,” Kriel said in a statement in

# Sasco issues warning over varsity debts

(54)  
Crisis might spread and eventually cripple higher education if solutions are not found  
*Sowetan 5/2/98*

By Victor Mecoamere

**T**ERTIARY institutions facing a R500 million debt in outstanding fees could be heading for a crisis if they fail to negotiate repayment terms with students, the South African Students Congress said yesterday.

Sasco general secretary Mr Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said in Bellville, Cape Town, that the University of the Western Cape (UWC) was experiencing a serious crisis because students failed to pay fees. He also called on the UWC authorities to withdraw charges against 308 students who were arrested for trespassing.

The other institutions may face the same problem as the UWC, which has been closed and is owed R50 million, said Ratshitanga.

He said that the education ministry's continued failure to intervene through a redress fund would eventually cripple higher education.

Ratshitanga slated the universities' unwavering stance towards defaulters, which included debt-collection measures such as stopping owing students from re-registering and graduating and sending debt-collection agencies after the defaulters.

These tough measures have also been necessitated by the drastic reduction of subsi-

dies by the Government to universities.

The University of Cape Town, whose original debt of R15 873 857 has dropped to R13 million, and the University of Port Elizabeth, owed R3 million, confirmed that the last resort in collecting outstanding fees was debt-collection agencies.

Education Minister Mr Sibusiso Bengu's spokesman, Mr Thami Mseleku, said yesterday that the ministry would be unable to intervene in the matter of the arrested students as it was a legal matter which had to take its course.

## Latest contribution

"Sasco's demand for the education ministry to provide extra funding is confusing after the Government's latest contribution of R300 million to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme," said Mseleku.

"A further R37 million has been received from private donors and many others have pledged to donate. Handling the huge debt is supposed to be the institutions' concern in which the ministry cannot be involved."

Mseleku said there were students who had money or bursaries but were refusing to pay. This was refuted by Ratshitanga who said Sasco did not sympathise with such defaulters.

# Crunch time on university fees

Star 3/2/98 (54)

By Jovial Rantao

The last thing South Africa's universities and technikons want to do is turn away qualified students, yet they must. Owed more than R500-million in student fees, universities do not have many options in trying to find a solution to a problem that could render the 1998 academic year stillborn.

The institutions no longer have reserves. Kitties are empty and have been for years due to non-payment of fees, and now the institutions have introduced tough credit-control measures that have led to clashes between management and student organisations.

Many universities have had to retrench thousands of workers and have restructured departments as part of the belt-tightening.

Student organisations, including the SA Students' Congress, have called for an emer-

gency fund from the Government to help those who can't pay. Some have even suggested that the debt should be written off.

The student organisations have threatened to embark on protests if a solution is not found to their financial problems. The SA Universities Vice-Chancellors' Association has called on the Government, business and donor communities to boost existing student financial aid schemes.

According to the Ministry of Education, the establishment of a redress fund was under consideration. The fund, however, would, once approved by the Cabinet, not be used exclusively for student fees but would be available to fund other aspects of education.

Thami Mseleku, an adviser to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, said the Government would not intervene in the current crisis. The solution, he said, should be found by the

institutions, students, parents and other stakeholders.

The University of the Western Cape is owed more than R52-million and has set up a debt-collection unit.

Mseleku said the Government had made its contribution through the R850-million which has been allocated to student financial aid.

"This Government has never had a policy of free tertiary education. It ... has given R300-million towards financial aid this year. On the basis of real need, students can get assistance ... We are not going to condone non-payment.

Institutions owed millions by students include the universities of Durban Westville (R175-million); Natal (R7,5-million); Witwatersrand (R15-million); Pretoria (R18,7-million); Fort Hare (R10-million); and Rand Afrikaans University (R3-million). Rhodes University is owed R100 000.



# UWC opens today amid fees crisis

54  
F.M.W. 5/2/98  
OWN CORRESPONDENT

The University of the Western Cape opens today and thousands of students are expected on campus to register, pay their fees and move into residences.

The campus was closed by the rector Cecil Abrahams on Monday to defuse student discontent over exclusions because of unpaid fees.

Today students who cannot afford their fees are to march to the gates of the university to highlight their plight and appeal to be allowed to study now and pay when they have graduated and found jobs.

They are to join needy students from other institutions and will march on Parliament next week.

Late yesterday, the university administration and student leaders were still locked in talks on how to resolve the problem of getting poor students to pay fees with money they do not have.

The university is owed R52-million and has been forced to take a hard line by refusing to register students unless they pay at least 40% of their outstanding fees.

► **Crunch time**

Page 11

# Little appeal for 'pay later' scheme

JUDITH SOAL

STUDENTS say they approve of an education department proposal to "study now and pay later" — as long as it does not apply to them.

The *Cape Times* has discovered that the education department is considering funding university and technikon education by taxing graduates an extra one to two percent for five to 10 years, or taxing companies extra for each graduate they employ.

The students we spoke to agreed with this in principle, but worried that it would mean fewer jobs for graduates, increased emigration and a double burden on existing students.

"What next?" asked Bulelwa, a fourth-year medical student

who did not want her surname to be published. "After studying for so long we have huge loans, we spend the first five years basically repaying them, now they want to tax us extra as well?"

She said it would be a good idea to tax graduates if tertiary education was free or relatively cheap, but to add to the burden of existing students was "just too much".

Ms Hayley Levinthal, a fourth-year occupational therapy student, felt it would be better to tax companies employing graduates, but her fellow students wondered if that would mean fewer jobs for people with degrees.

"Employees might not want to employ us if it means paying more tax, but then they pay new graduates less than people with

experience anyway, so it might even out," said Mr Modise Mogotsi.

Ms Clare Ellis-Smith, also studying occupational therapy, questioned whether the scheme would work.

"The government would lose out because graduates wouldn't get jobs, so how would they fund education?" she said.

Mr Michael Kleyn, a third-year medical student, felt the proposals were a disguised form of wealth tax. "Graduates carry most of the tax burden anyway. And when I finish studying I'll have student loans of more than R90 000. We pay over R12 000 in fees every year, then there are books and equipment. Now we also have to do a year of compulsory service.

"We only start making

money in our 40s because we have to study for so long."

Third-year medical student Ms Kirsty De St Croix felt it was a good idea on the whole, because it would benefit people who could not afford to study.

Ms Leanne Prodehl, also in her third year, felt the company tax would work well for large companies but would disadvantage small businesses.

Ms Layla van der Schuff, a fourth-year occupational therapy student, said the scheme would only work if the health services provided jobs for graduates.

"There aren't really any jobs for us, they have frozen all the posts, so who are they going to tax? It might also mean that even more graduates leave the country."

## Need for financial aid will increase — report

TROYE LUND

THE number of students needing financial aid for university or technikon will increase by 70 000 in 10 years, a report by prominent economists and academics predicts.

The report also warns that a national financial aid scheme for tertiary education must be established if a "crisis" is to be averted.

Compared with the 80 000 stu-

dents currently qualifying for aid, 123 000 will qualify in the year 2005 and 151 000 in 2010.

The report, which was handed to the Education Department in October, was backed by American organisation The Andrew W Mellon Foundation.

The research team included former UCT vice-chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders and economist Mr Robert Dorrington.

It was found that over and above the R337 million the government had given to the Tertiary Education Fund of SA (Tefsa) for distribution to needy students this year, another R137m was essential just to keep financial aid at 1996 levels.

One recommendation was that the government should allocate an extra R55m to the existing financial aid scheme, with the shortfall

made up by private donors.

It was also recommended that interest charged on loans from Tefsa be increased from the present 1% above inflation. This would allow the scheme to pay out larger awards than the average of R5 500 paid out last year.

The report also advises that the independent Tefsa should be restructured to include government representation on its board.

DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS WOULD BENEFIT

# New tax for tertiary educa

CT 5/2/98

(54)

**A PROPOSED** tax on graduates or firms employing them would wipe out student debt in less than a year. Education Writer **TROYE LUND** reports.

**U**NIVERSITY and technikon graduates, or the companies employing them, could face a new tax to fund tertiary education for disadvantaged students.

While business was appalled by the proposal now before Education Minister Dr Sibusu Bengu, students cautiously welcomed it.

Bengu's adviser, Mr Thami Mseleku, wouldn't give details of the proposal by researchers from the Financial and Fiscal Commission, but he said it was aimed at launching a new national student financial aid scheme.

The *Cape Times* has obtained a copy of the proposal.

How much this earmark tax would be, how long it would be paid, and whether or not it would be imposed on future or all past graduates would be negotiated if the proposal was accepted.

Research has shown that R550 million a year could be generated if all graduates — past and future — were taxed an extra 1% of their salaries.

This means that it would take less than one year to wipe out the R300m that students owe nationally.

Aside from averting the financial crisis facing most of the country's 36 universities and technikons fighting to get money out of disadvantaged students, these institutions could start reducing fees and possibly stop them altogether as the tax fund grew.

Although there is a national financial aid scheme for students, the Education Department agrees the R900m it has paid to the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa) for redistribution since 1996 is inadequate.

The department applied for R400m for this year and got R300m.

The proposal sets out three options, namely that graduates be taxed more, that companies be taxed for every graduate they employ and that the Tefsa scheme be expanded.

Western Cape Student Representative Councils said they proposals were "a step in the right direction".

A spokesperson for the SRCs and chairperson of the Peninsula Technikon SRC, Mr Teacher Vanga, said: "We acknowledge the financial constraints on the gov-



**TAG:** Sibusu Bengu

ernment and the fact that free education is impossible. We have proposed that all graduates serve a year of community service.

"Taxing companies may not be a good idea if it means that they will stop employing graduates."

Other SRCs supported the University of the Western Cape student leaders who pointed out that taxing graduates might work out cheaper than their taking loans and then paying them back at prime interest.

But the Cape Chamber of Commerce was horrified at the idea of another tax on business.

"This year is the Year of Job Creation, companies should be given incentive to increase their labour.

"Should employees be faced with two candidates of similar skill, one a graduate and the other not, guess who will be employed?" said the chamber's human resources manager, Mr Charl Adams.

City businessman Mr Gareth Ackerman was "flabbergasted" by a prospect that "made absolutely no sense", saying that not only would it be an incentive not to hire graduates, it would also drive more qualified people out of the country.

"Tax levels in this country are far too high. Instead of increasing tax, the government should be looking at ways of focusing resources and making the existing system more efficient."

Political analysts believe that Finance Minister Mr Trevor Manuel would never agree to a graduate tax or payroll tax for education because other ministers would begin lobbying for similar earmarked taxes.

Tax breaks should be given to companies that contributed to the Tefsa fund so there was an incentive to expand it, they said.

Tefsa spokesperson Mr Roy Jackson said the government would have to put about R500m into the scheme to properly benefit the 80 000 needy students at technikons and universities.

● See Page 6

# Govt won't step into varsity crisis

CT 5/2/98 (54)

**WHILE THE** dispute over payment of fees continues to simmer following clashes at the University of the Western Cape, the government says it will not interfere in the crisis. **JOVIAL RANTAO** reports.



**T**HE last thing South Africa's universities and technikons want to do is turn away qualified students, yet they must. Owed over R500-million in student fees, universities do not have many options in trying to find a solution to a problem that could render the 1998 academic year stillborn.

The institutions no longer have reserves. Kitties are empty and have been for years due to non-payment of fees, and now the institutions have introduced tough credit control measures that have led to clashes between management and student organisations.

Most universities have had to retrench thousands of workers and have restructured departments as part of the belt-tightening.

Should students who, for various reasons, owe the institutions huge sums of money be allowed to register for the new academic year, a move many fear would only increase the size of their debt to unmanageable proportions?

Student organisations, including the South African Students Congress, have called for an emergency fund from the government to help those who can't pay. Some have even suggested that the debt should be written off. The student organisations have threatened to embark on protests if a solution is not found to their financial problems. The South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association has called on the government, business and donor communities to assist existing student financial aid schemes.

According to the Ministry of Education, the establishment of a redress fund was under consideration. The fund, however, would, once approved by Cabinet, not be used exclusively on student fees but would be available to fund other aspects of education.

Thami Mseleku, an adviser to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, said the government would not intervene in the current crisis. The solution, he said, should be found by the institutions, students, parents and other stakeholders.

One institution that has set the ball rolling is the University of the Western Cape, which is owed more than R52m and has set up a debt collection unit.

Mseleku said the government was doing something to ensure that needy and academically capable students were not kept out of universities because of their economic circumstances.

He said the government has made its contribution through the R850m which has been allocated to student financial aid. Bengu has said that the government intends increasing its contribution to student aid over the next financial period to help needy students to gain access to higher education institutions.

Mseleku said there would be no government intervention in the current stand-off between universities and students.

He said the Ministry of Education had discovered that there were students who have failed to pay their fees at the beginning of the year because institutions were not strict enough. In some cases students have accumulated debt through lack of commitment, evidenced by their failure to pass exams.

"We also have said that the management of finances are a matter of management of institutions that will have to find mechanisms to ensure that students who have to pay do pay. Those with good academic records, who are needy of assistance, should get such assistance. We have introduced financial aid and don't understand why the size of the student debt is growing. This suggests that there's an element of the debt that is not being managed by the institutions.

"If the government intervenes, there will be disaster. This government has never had a policy of free tertiary education. It will do everything to assist students in need and has given R300 million towards financial aid this year. On the basis of real need students can get assistance. This financial aid scheme may not be enough but we are not going to condone non-payment," Mseleku said.

"It's not our policy to intervene. Government is not prepared to come and assist people who cannot manage institutions. We sympathise with students. All stakeholders must be involved in the negotiations must include parents and all other stakeholders."

Institutions owed millions by students include the University of Durban Westville (R175m), University of Natal (R7,5m), University of Witwatersrand (R15m), Rand Afrikaanse University (R3m), University of Pretoria (R18,7m), University of Fort Hare (R10m) and Rhodes University (R100 000).

## Aids research unit set up

Nicola Jenvey

54 (54) 805/2/98

DURBAN — The University of Natal yesterday launched its health economics and HIV/AIDS research division of the Economic Research Unit with two major projects already under way.

The first, commissioned by the US Agency for International Development Africa bureau and worth R1m, will develop a set of tools for people to consider the HIV/AIDS epidemic and incorporate a response in their working lives.

Unit director Alan Whiteside said this was vital in southern Africa where HIV infection levels were "frighteningly high".

Vice-chancellor Brenda Gourley said the second project — to recruit a researcher and provide briefings, research, and information for the provincial health department and thus the cabinet — reflected how the leadership was "grasping the nettle" of the HIV/AIDS situation in SA.

# Universities question UCT's loan scheme

Jonathan Davis

DD 5/2/98 (54)

A NUMBER of universities have expressed misgivings about the University of Cape Town's (UCT's) practice of standing surety for bank loans for needy students.

However, UCT spokesman Helen Zille defended the practice yesterday. The alternative was to turn away deserving students, she said.

"Our experience has been good," she said. "We have a good repayment rate and we always pursue students who default."

The university was responsible for loans totalling R15m on December 2 last year.

Students took out a loan from a fund set up by the university with a banking group, which they started to repay once they found employment. If they failed to pay, the loan reverted to the university.

Zille said the programme's success was based on the fact that the university's graduates were sought after and found employment, and on the university's willingness to pursue defaulters for funds.

Wits University registrar Derek Swimmer said the university had considered standing surety for students but had never resorted to the measure. It preferred to put its funds into the Tertiary Education Fund of SA, which gave loans to needy students.

Nicola Jenvey reports University of Natal chancellor Brenda Gourley said the university council would never consider standing surety for students seeking bank loans, describing it as "an open-ended policy for abuse".

The University of Natal, like most other universities, also preferred to contribute to the tertiary education fund.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports the SA Students' Congress warned yesterday of upheavals at tertiary institutions unless the student debt crisis was addressed. It criticised institutions for "taking a hardline stance" on student debt.

# Wits Business School appoints first chair on international issues

18 Jn.  
Lucia Mutikani

(54)

BD 5/12/98

WITS Business School has appointed Saul Klein as SA's first professor of international business, a chair which has been sponsored by SA Breweries.

Klein, who previously held the post of visiting professor, has accepted a five-year term. He will convene two new executive programmes this year focusing on international business issues.

The first programme next month, strategic alliances and partnering, will focus on the logic behind alliances, the inherent risks involved and the potential benefits of successful alliances.

"Many SA firms are investigating the possibility of strategic international alliances, yet the failure rate of such alliances is high," said Klein. "Many people do not recognise the extent to which getting into an alliance means having to change one's own business. Others look to alliances to solve problems which they in fact only exacerbate."

He said the programme was designed to give senior managers in large corporations and small companies an understanding of the difficulties involved in evaluating, forming and managing strategic partnerships.



Klein is professor of international business at Wits Business School

"It will explore the possibilities and pitfalls for companies looking at entering into alliances, as well as provide guidance for those in alliances and having difficulties."

The global business-strategy programme which is scheduled for May, will provide managers with a perspective on what it means to operate in the global environment.

"The programme covers areas such as market entry, standardisation versus adaptation, inter-

national finance, human resources, international operations and global competitive advantage," Klein said.

"It will assist senior managers to come to terms with the reality of operating outside SA and enable them to recognise opportunities and take advantage of them."

Wits Business School director Mike Ward said the increasing globalisation of business was one of the biggest challenges facing SA business.

# Matie rector's future in balance

*ART 6/2/98*  
**CAROL CAMPBELL**  
SPECIAL WRITER

**The future of Stellenbosch University rector Andreas van Wyk is in the balance as academic staff argue over whether he should be made to apply for his job when his term of office ends in June.**

The university senate met on Tuesday to decide how to go about appointing the new rector and there was a strong feeling that

*(54)*  
Professor Van Wyk should not automatically top the list of choices.

The university administration said last night that a technical hitch delaying the selection process had been resolved and the senate – all the university's professors – had been asked to convene an "extraordinary meeting" to decide what to do next.

It is understood that large payments Professor Van Wyk made to himself and his senior team in lieu of accumulated leave last year have upset academic staff.



# Winfall joy for student

## Reader's cheque makes dream come true

AKT 5/2/98

(54)

CAROL CARPELL

SPECIAL WRITER

An old Sekhukhuneland chief's dream for his beloved son is about to come true after all, thanks to the generosity of a Cape Argus reader.

The story of impoverished University of the Western Cape student David Mashishe, the son of the chief and his fourth wife, so touched a Cape Town businessman that he has given him R10 000 - the 40% of his outstanding fees he needs to reregister at UWC this year.

The benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, delivered the cheque to the Cape Argus yesterday after reading David's heartbreaking story in Tuesday's newspaper.

Before he died, David's father told him that his heritage was to be educated and not to take over as chief of the tribe, an honour which would go to the eldest son of his second wife.

After the old man's death, David's life took a tragic twist when he, his mother and younger brothers and sisters were forced to leave the chief's kraal.

Although he was still a child, he was the eldest son and had to support the family.

But he lived up to his father's dream, got his matric and now - at the age of 31 - is on the verge of completing his commerce degree. But he was refused registration at UWC for his final year's studies because he owed R25 000.

UWC is allowing students in debt to register only if they come up with 40% of what they owe.

When he was given the cheque yesterday, David was overwhelmed.

"My family has never had this much money, ever," he said, as he hugged his girlfriend, Annaline Blaauw.

The cheque was made payable to the UWC and will be paid into David's account when the campus reopens today.

"Thank you, so much," he said.



Thank you, so much: student David Mashishe gets a hug from girlfriend Annaline Blaauw as they hold a R10 000 cheque from a Cape Argus reader. Mr Mashishe can now afford to study at UWC this year

ANDREW INGRAM

# Thousands register at tense UWC

ART 5/2/98

(54)

CAROL CAMPBELL, NORMAN JOSEPH  
AND ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Under the watchful eyes of police, thousands of students registered for the 1998 academic year and paid deposits at the University of the Western Cape today after days of disturbances.

The atmosphere was tense as the students paid a deposit on fees of between R2 000 and R3 000 at the registration offices.

After registering, many students lined up to take part in a march planned by the South African Students' Congress, which was to be joined by students from the Cape and Peninsula Technikons. Journalists and television crews also gathered.

UWC spokeswoman Belinda Glass said rector Cecil Abrahams was in talks with staff over developments.

The campus was closed on Monday by Professor Abrahams in a bid to defuse the anger of students who were refused permission to register because of unpaid fees.

Today's march, along Modderdam Road to the gates of the university, is intended to highlight the plight of students who can't pay their fees and have been refused permission to re-register.

Students also plan to march on Parliament next week.



ANDREW INGRAM

**Exit:** 'illegal' students leave UWC's Gorvalla residence after being warned they were to be evicted

Late yesterday the university administrators and student leaders were still locked in talks on how to resolve the dilemma of poor students who could not pay fees. The university is owed R52-million.

students until they have paid at least 40% of their debt.

Many owe so much they have no hope of raising the money.

One student said: "I must pay R10 000 to be allowed to come back, but that is what my whole community of 4 000 people (in the Northern Province) earns in a month. I can't get that kind of money - it's impossible."

Another problem is that new students who do not even have acceptance letters from the university are continually arriving from around South Africa because they have heard that UWC is sympathetic to the poor, and that they will be allowed to study in spite of having no money.

Last week the university evicted squatting students from residences to make space for "legitimate" paying students.

Many of the up-country "hopefuls" have ended up sleeping on the pavement because they have nowhere else to go.

Yesterday most had moved into the student centre, where they were camping on the floor of the Students' Representative Council offices.

Students squatting in Gorvalla Residence were given an ultimatum to move out by 4pm yesterday and, although police did not

To page 3

## Thousands register at tense UWC

From page 1

ART 5/2/98

(54)

come to enforce the order, most packed their suitcases and went in search of other places to stay.

The Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa will help about 80 000 students - about 8 000 more than last year - attend universities and technikons this year, executive-director of the fund Roy Jackson said.

Mr Jackson said R337-million - R300-million from Government and R37-million from the private sector - had been allocated to the National

Students' Financial Aid Scheme to help needy and academically-able students. The allocation of funds to 37 institutions - 21 universities and 16 technikons - would be based on the number of disadvantaged students at each institution.

Mr Jackson said students who did well in their studies received burrsaries of between 20% and 40%, adding: "If a student registers for four courses and passes them at the end of the year, his debt is reduced by 40%. If he passes two courses, 20% is deducted from his debt."

## STUDENT DEBT

(54)  
FM 6/2/98

# Culture of nonpayment threatens varsities' viability

Debt-laden universities finally forced to get tough on defaulters

**P**redictably, the debt crisis afflicting SA's tertiary institutions — R500m is outstanding in students' fees — has resulted in disturbances at the University of the Western Cape (UWC).

UWC has long viewed itself as a leader in educational egalitarianism — as a "people's university" throughout the struggle period, with a virtually open-ended admissions policy coupled to laxness over fees.

Last month, UWC rector Cecil Abrahams acknowledged the problem. He sent out a confidential memo to his embattled staff, stating "we are unable to sustain the kind of debt that was created in 1997." The university, he added, "usually" relied on students' contributions to tide it over until April, when the first subsidy cheque from government was due. Now, however, the accumulated debt stood at R52m (it was R26m in 1995) and enforced payment had become necessary.

The requisite steps outlined by Abrahams included payment by students of 40% of their outstanding fees before readmission; first-year enrolment permitted only upon payment of R2 000 for tuition and R2 500 for residence; the presence of a parent or guardian upon registration of both new and old students to negotiate agreements on future payments; and the establishment of a debt-collecting unit at UWC.

Other universities are in similar straits. At the end of January, in an open letter to parents and students, University of the North vice-chancellor Njabulo Ndebele said "all outstanding debts *must* be settled during 1998. As from 1999 no students will be allowed to register unless they have cleared their outstanding debt."

Other measures such as a staff salary freeze and cutting certain services are either being mooted or implemented at most of SA's "historically disadvantaged" universities where student debt is escalating. The University of Zululand, for example, is owed R55m; Fort Hare, R26m.

What makes the situation at UWC unique, however, is that in recent years there has been no waning of the revolutionary fervour that made the campus a safe haven for the United Democratic Front in the Eighties.



Seeking "creative solutions" . . . another protest over student fees

The dominant SA Students' Congress (Sasco) has vigorously campaigned for what Student Representative Council president Goodenough Kodwe (who owes R20 738) typifies as "the reality of students who cannot pay", and the need for "creative solutions" to this problem.

Among other student demands are accelerated Africanisation of the syllabus; a halt to the exclusion of students who consistently fail; and insistence that UWC adhere to its mission statement which calls for help for the historically disadvantaged, which is to say poor and black. Half UWC's 13 000 students owe money.

Sasco warned of protests and disruption if its demands were not met.

However, government — which pays an annual, but declining, subsidy of about R5bn towards tertiary education — has had to bow to financial reality. Addressing a student demonstration last week, when the campus came to a standstill because of disruptions, Abrahams plaintively said: "Comrades . . . no-one wishes to exclude you. But we have to collect the minimum payments from you."

An assistant to the rector, Elwin van

Gensen, while sympathising with the "debt trap" many students find themselves in, also surmises that if the situation grows more unwieldy, UWC might have to close.

This ultimate threat was partially — and temporarily — realised last Sunday night when police moved on to the campus and arrested more than 300 students. Officially, the university said, "the students were not arrested because they have not paid their fees, but because of their unauthorised

occupation of the residences and disruption of the orientation and registration process."

In past years, students who simply refused to leave the residences — while neither paying nor, in many cases, studying — have represented a militant Trojan Horse within the campus. Those arrested were to appear at Bellville Magistrates Court on Tuesday, but confusion surrounded the incident.

Similar unrest can be expected at other debt-plagued institutions. The problem for UWC is it cannot

afford to be the kind of university Abrahams himself has promised — one that would guarantee free education for those who forfeited it in the name of liberation.

Two suggestions of how to bring relative peace to UWC and its sister institutions make sense. One emanates from Abrahams himself — that the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University share the burden of the continual inflow of disadvantaged students. The other is that government devise a bursary scheme that would enable genuinely poor but teachable students an entrée to higher education.

Daniel Silke — a Democratic Party member of the Western Cape Provincial Legislature — says the issue is not just that some students cannot pay, but that "a culture of nonpayment among UWC students who *can* afford to pay has taken root. While students are to blame in many cases, the university administration has failed to adequately address the situation."

Until now, that is — though by his weak-kneed administration in the past, Abrahams may find that allowing the police to roust out "trespassers" may not begin to solve the underlying problems.

Peter Wilhelm

# Varsity cutbacks need greater debate

**Suraya Jawoodeen**  
A SECOND LOOK

**T**he main thrust of the article in the *Mail & Guardian* (January 30 to February 5), "Broke varsities on precipice", is that as a result of mounting student debt crippling mainly the historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs), the government is urging institutions to restructure in order to continue receiving state support. It is being suggested that institutions reduce costs in line with funding and get tough with students who refuse to pay their fees.

It is a fact that the government's vision about an expanded system and massification has mainly played itself out at the HDIs which some time ago transformed their admissions policy to include disadvantaged students. The historically advantaged institutions (HAIs) only accommodate a minority of African students currently in the higher-education system.

The emerging pattern is that these students are mainly African, often first-generation university students, of a working-class or rural background. They tend to associate university admission with upward mobility. In some cases, bursaries and loans are used to support many other relatives back home, and, in a few cases, to lead a lifestyle consistent with the aspiring black middle class.

The new planning unit of the Department of Education argues that the number of universities and technikons is likely to drop over the next few years, and they will look at what configuration is optimal. The shape and size of higher education need to be debated now, not later. The government's challenge has to be the development of a vision on how intake into the system can be spread across the system. This can only be directed from the central level.

One of the major contributing factors to the funding crisis at the HDIs is poor management structures and financial systems. This is argued bearing in mind the backlog caused by the past inequities in relation to subsidy allocation by the former state. The internal systems at the individual institutions have failed to develop an adequate means test that separates the poverty-stricken student from the student who withholds payment because of an expectation that the government should provide free education. (Many in the latter



category do not even have a clear political position on this.)

There has also been a failure to develop systems that follow up on outstanding fees; for example, approaching parents, fundraising, debt-collection agencies. Most of these institutions have only applied their minds to debt collection after nearing bankruptcy.

Another much bigger debate that must begin to take place both at the level of central government and within HDIs is linked to the demand for bridging finances and redress funding required to deal with the backlog in buildings, library holdings, information technology, and so on. We also probably require a debate on the relevance of knowledge and skills acquired across the system.

While poor management has contributed to this situation it is by no means the only contributing factor. Macro issues have further complicated this scenario. The number of black matriculants demanding access to higher education is not adequately covered by the national loan and bursary fund and this

sits uncomfortably with a call for massification of the system by the ministry. The massification call has also been made against the background of a macro-economic framework, which commits the government to cut public expenditure that immediately limits the central pool available for subsidy and loans.

The central government has not been able to effectively engage the private sector in terms of contributing to the national loan and bursary scheme, student loans in industry-related disciplines, creation of vacation jobs, and so forth. To expect the private sector to voluntarily contribute to the development of certain layers of society is naive to say the least.

We need a vision that sees these students being evenly distributed across the system. The HAIs will have to be directed by central government on this matter.

National student structures have been unable to develop clear political positions around the issues of admissions and finances. The political rhetoric of a few vocal student leaders is not matched with the base they represent.

Political consciousness of student constituencies is no longer tied to the development of their communities. University degrees are their tickets to well-paid jobs, cell-phones and fancy cars.

A new democracy that created nine provinces with nine sets of civil servants all requiring BMWs is what they can look forward to. We operate in a society that does not have sufficient money to timeously pay out pensions to its downtrodden African pensioners in the Eastern Cape and has to freeze capital projects in Mpumalanga, but can afford to buy the MECs new BMWs. It will come as no surprise then when the working class is cynical about austerity measures in all areas of delivery except in the area of benefits being demanded by the new civil service.

**T**he HAIs which embarked on major restructuring over the past year did so mainly from an academic planning perspective. They defined the kind of academic project required by our national and global order and linked this to the question of the kind of graduate required by our social order.

While this is not an ideologically free process, at least it can be argued that within the bourgeois framework there appear to be general academic planning principles guiding the restructuring process. The HDIs are being urged to restructure their core activities on the basis of financial constraints without due thought to the impact on long-term academic planning.

Financial viability of institutions seems to be automatically associated with the outsourcing and retrenchments of the most vulnerable layer of the academic hierarchy. The common trend seems to be what cannot be managed gets privatised.

Most university managers and central government officials are paid packages that compare favourably with the private sector and should be held accountable for their management, performance and vision of this transformation project. The workers as a sector have to deal too with the consequences of bad management, lack of vision at some levels, the expectations of large sectors of our society and the lack of adequate material support for the noble idea of extending higher education to children of the working class.

*Suraya Jawoodeen is a National Education Health and Allied Workers Union shop steward in the iKapa education sector branch. The above is written in Jawoodeen's personal capacity*

mtg 6-12/2/98 (54)

# Stellenbosch rector stopped in his tracks

MTG 6-12/98

(54)

## Andy Duffy

Senior academic staff at the University of Stellenbosch this week thwarted an attempt by rector Andreas van Wyk to bulldoze his way to a second five-year term.

The university's senate on Tuesday rejected its council's ruling that it use an appointment route that would merely hand the job back to Van Wyk when his current term expires in June.

The council, which counts Van

Wyk among its members, voted the proposal through at a special meeting in December. But the senate, staffed by professors and department heads, said the council had trampled a university regulation by failing to consult.

Van Wyk had hoped to accept his rubber-stamped reappointment when he met his council colleagues on Wednesday night. The senate will now meet next Monday to decide whether he should be reappointed, or whether to invite outside applicants — effectively a no-

confidence vote in Van Wyk. The council will regroup on Tuesday to assess the results.

Van Wyk refused to comment. University representative Kobus Visagie says the council was "confused and a bit upset" by the senate's rejection.

He says the council is unlikely to overrule the senate, should the latter decide to throw the field open. "It's very difficult to say which way it will go," he adds. "I'd say it's about 50/50. Monday's senate meeting will be quite an interesting one."

Council chair Gys Steyn dismissed the senate's rejection as a "technical point ... I don't see this as a blow."

The terms of nine of the 20-strong council expire between now and June, including that of Van Wyk and vice-rector Christo Viljoen. Two new councillors joined at the start of the year.

Van Wyk has long been under fire for his management style and apparent reluctance to transform the university — which is seen as the greatest obstacle to his reappoint-

ment. Less than 3% of the 14 500 students are black.

Van Wyk's defence of the university as the crucible of Afrikaner learning and culture, particularly on the issue of teaching in Afrikaans, has triggered public clashes with Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu.

The university is also still smarting from the scandal which erupted last year over six-figure pay-outs the university gave Van Wyk, Viljoen and four other senior administrative staff. Van Wyk authorised the cheques.

Meanwhile, the senate and council agreed this week that Viljoen's successor — found after advertising the post — should be Dr Rolf Stumpf, president of the Human Sciences Research Council.

# Asinamali, they all say

**T**HE clash between students and universities this week over student access and funding for 1998 was no surprise. But the annual crisis on campuses is worse this year, given the massive student debt crippling universities and strict limits on government funding.

The total student debt is estimated at about R500 million, with 10 historically disadvantaged universities (HDUs) being most affected by their students' inability to settle outstanding fees.

The first campus to be hit by student protest this week, the University of the Western Cape, is owed R50 million. The University of the North has an outstanding student debt of R83 million, while the University of the Zululand is owed R55 million.

Vista University is owed about R17 million in outstanding fees, and Vista student leader Abner Nosaase says over a thousand students at Vista's branches are facing exclusion.

"The HDUs have no resources or reserves to write off debts or provide free university education. The universities cannot function without rigid adherence to arrangements for paying prescribed fees in full," the Forum of Vice-Chancellors of HDUs said last weekend.

This means thousands of students are facing exclusion and the Government does not have the resources to bail them out with emergency loans or bursaries.

The Education Department allocated a set amount of R337 million to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme for 1998. This is R45 million short of what is required to assist about 80 000 needy students, and R137 million less than the 1996 levels of student aid, according to an Andrew W Mellon Foundation report.

"The students at the centre of the crisis are mostly disadvantaged students. We are looking at a situation where only those who can afford fees will be admitted," SA Universities Students' Representative Council (SAU SRCs) president Sam Thobakgale told *Sowetan*.

He said the students were planning country-wide protests for increased funding this month in support of the council's "Operation Education For All" campaign.

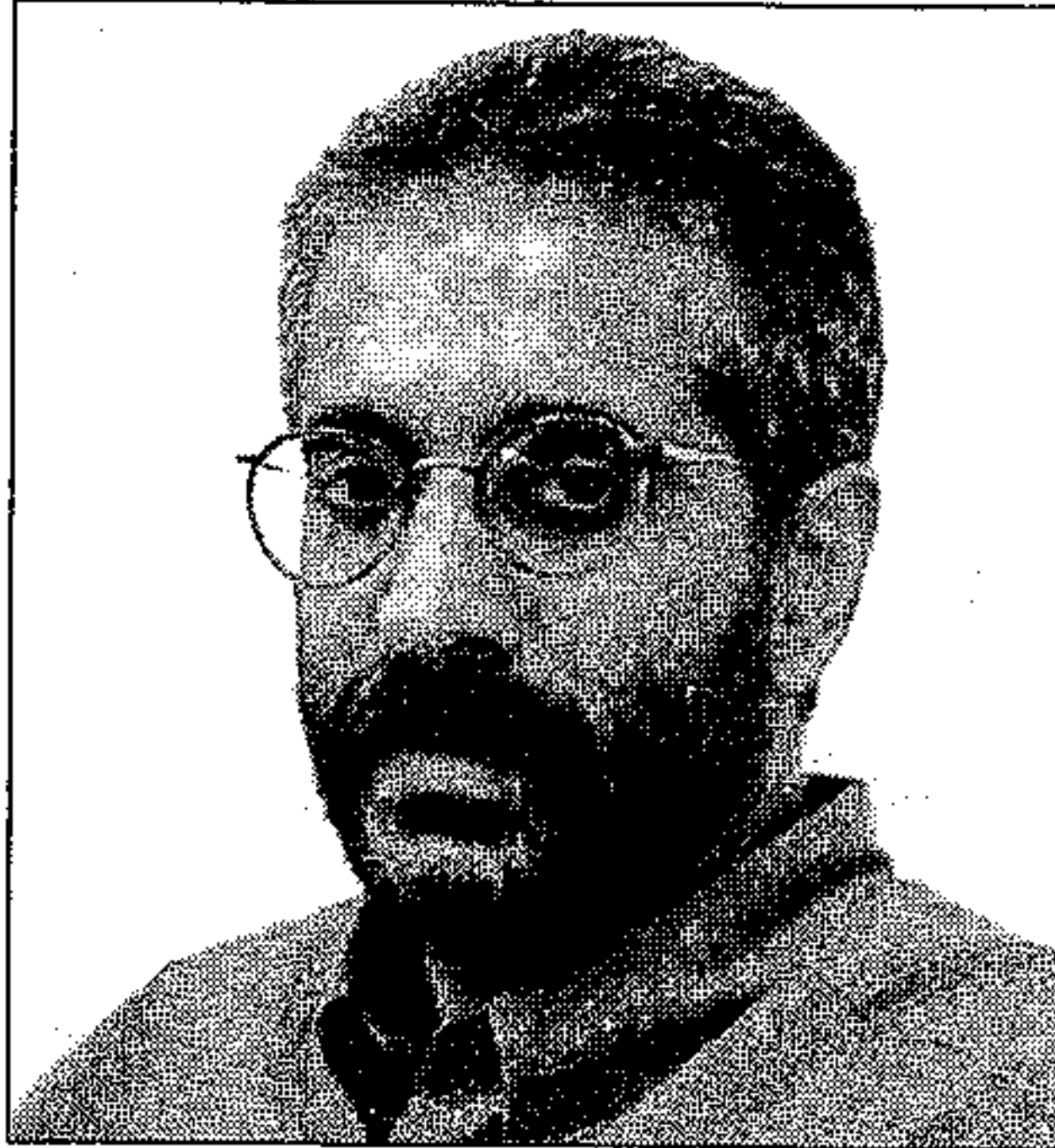
Thobakgale said protests at provincial level would culminate in national mass action, probably around the time of the Government's Budget speech in March.

These protests will highlight the core of the problem – the needs of tertiary students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, far outstrip the available resources.

But the department must balance the competing needs of schools, higher and adult education and it has prioritised general education, with 85 percent of its budget directed at

There are no easy solutions. Behind campus protests lies the stark reality that student debt has escalated and the state can't keep up. **Claire Keeton** explains...

(54) *Sowetan* 6/2/98



**Chief director of education planning Ahmed Essop ... "there is not an endless pot of money".** PIC: CLAIRE KEETON

schools and colleges.

"We need a higher education system and need to produce high-level skills," said chief director of education planning Ahmed Essop. "However, higher education is not free."

"The minister recognises the need for increased access and improved equity but there is not an endless pot of money."

However, Thobakgale argued: "Every student has a right to education but since 1994 this has become a privilege."

"The Government must harmonise its priorities in terms of macro-economic strategy and demands for transformation. The process (of transformation) comes at a cost and the department cannot wish those costs away."

## History of inadequate funding

It is clear that apartheid education policy is responsible for most of the problems facing HDUs. Established to cater for black students, the HDUs have a history of inadequate funding although they have been responsible for most graduates from disadvantaged communities.

They received about R31 million of the R40 million the Government allocated to the Tertiary Education Fund for South Africa in 1996 but their debt has escalated over the last year.

Refusing to reregister students, release academic results or award degrees to students with outstanding fees are among the steps taken by

institutions to reduce student debt.

South African Students Congress president Jacob Mamabolo said students will resist any attempts by debt-collection agencies to recover fees. Instead, the SAU SRCs and Sasco have called on the department to establish a "redress fund" to assist students as student debt has increased about 10 times since the mid-1980s.

"The national funding crisis is directly the result of last year's subsidy cuts," said Wits University SRC president Thato Magogodi.

Essop said the department would work with institutions to solve the debt problem. "We have no money to write off debts," he said.

At all levels – the students, institutions and the department – there is forward planning to prevent a collapse in higher education.

The SAU SRCs said they are planning to launch a National Student Trust Fund. "We will initiate the project, to be driven by business, if we are able to get their support," said Thobakgale.

The students are also engaged in a process of consultation with campus managements about fees and future strategies.

From their side, the institutions have taken firm measures to enforce fee payment, reduce the size of nonacademic staff and streamline their operations. Some institutions in the same geographical area work in cooperation to offer joint programmes and avoid duplication.

"The institutions need to develop strategies in consultation with students," said Essop. "There is no easy, acceptable solution. They need to be proactive."

He said the white paper on higher education proposed an investigation into existing institutions, looking at whether there were the right type and number of institutions, taking into account the broader context and financial framework.

Meanwhile, the department has commissioned further work on the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to thrash out the details and implementation of higher education policy over the next five to 10 years.

A new funding formula will be based on enrolment size and targeted funds for specific programmes.

Essop said he hoped this document would be the basis for engagement with students and institutions, and that the elements of the new formula and framework would be in place by the 1999-2000 financial year.

# R337-million earmarked for tertiary bursaries

By EDDIE JAYIYA

The Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (TEFSA) will assist about 80 000 students – about 8 000 more than last year – at various universities and technikons this year, executive director of TEFSA, Roy Jackson, said yesterday.

Jackson said R337-million (R300-million from Government and R37-million from the private sector) had been allocated to the National Students' Financial Aid Scheme (NSTAS) to assist needy and academically able students and the money was likely to increase when agreements with private donors had been signed.

The allocation of funds to 37 institutions – 21 universities and 16 technikons – would be based on

*Star 6/2/98*  
the number of disadvantaged students at each institution. He stressed that there was no money for "bikes for students".

The money is allocated according to the needs of the students, he said. "Tertiary institutions send us their requirements and the money is transferred electronically from the Department of Education's account into each institution's banking account.

"If there is a credit left, the money is then sent back to us. If a student gets a merit award during the current academic year, the money is paid back to us as the first payment of the loan. The balance of the loan is payable when the student is employed."

Jackson said students who did well in their studies received bursaries of between 20% and 40%.

(54)  
"If a student registers for four courses and passes them at the end of the year, then his debt is reduced by 40%. If he passes two courses, then 20% is deducted from his debt."

He said the tertiary community had to look at collective ways of solving the financial crisis experienced at some universities.

Spokesman for Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, Bheki Khumalo, said the ministry was committed to helping needy students.

"This amount is R100-million more than last year's allocation and shows the new government's commitment to helping needy students. Before there was no such funding for the students. The Government will increase its allocation annually until the situation improves."

# Talks at Fort Hare avert a showdown

(54)

8:00 AM 6/2/98

Debt-ridden tertiary institutions battling to cope with exclusion of students

STAFF REPORTERS AND SAPA

**T**ension and student militancy at several universities mounted yesterday as authorities and student organisations failed to reach agreement over the payment of outstanding fees.

A potentially explosive situation was averted at Fort Hare University in the Eastern Cape when authorities met SA Students Congress president Jacob Mamabolo for three hours.

Students threatened action if management refused to meet their representatives.

Mamabolo said he had met management to defuse tensions after the authorities locked the students out and refused to meet student representatives.

"The management refused to see the SRC because even SRC members have not yet paid. My concern is a heavy police presence outside campus, which gives students the impression that we are going back to the difficult days of the past."

Management at other institutions promised to meet defaulters with less confrontational methods and were willing to consider loans and aid in arranging bursaries.

A spokesman for Vista University, who asked not to be identified, said that two weeks ago the total student debt stood at R26-million, including outstanding fees from 1996.

"We have had initial talks with the SRC and they have promised to ask their members to make suitable arrangements

to settle their debts," he said.

Wits senior media officer Peggy Jennings said that by the third week of January, student debt stood at R10-million.

"We only admit students who have paid. We encourage needy students to make arrangements with the university and every effort is made to avoid excluding academically sound students," she said.

Vaal Technikon is owed R8,8-million in outstanding fees. Rand Afrikaans University has about R1-million to recover from its students, while Pretoria University must recover about R3,2-million.

Pretoria University media officer Leon Rademeyer said student debt was about R11,3-million at the beginning of 1997, but was reduced to about R3,2-million by the end of the year. "We expect that the total debt will probably be higher this year than in 1997."

He said students who completed a year of study, but had not settled their debts, might be refused access until their debts were paid or a satisfactory arrangement was made.

■ Students should pay their tuition fees and be aware that boycotts and stayaways would not resolve problems in education, Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa said yesterday.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the satellite campus of the University of Pretoria in Witbank, Phosa urged students to pay for their tuition or face the fact that academic institutions would be forced to close.



# Mandela rejects Sasco call to intervene in

Jonathan Davis

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela's office has rejected calls by the SA Students' Congress (Sasco) that he intervene on behalf of cash-strapped students in the fees crisis affecting many of SA's tertiary institutions, and has called on the organisation to co-operate with the education department in solving the funding problems.

Sasco leaders yesterday asked Mandela to intercede on their behalf, saying Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu "had neither the mandate nor the willingness" to intervene between students and tertiary institutions' administrations. Presidential spokesman Parks Manka-

hlana denied there was a crisis in fees at universities and technikons. Mankahlana said: "The SA Students' Congress and other organisations have had ample opportunity to make a constructive contribution by co-operating with the ministry of education. There is nothing new the president can introduce in the current situation which the ministry of education cannot discuss with the student movement."

"The president urges the parties involved to abandon any tendency towards brinkmanship, and that, instead, all parties, including the students, should sit down and work out a programme for meeting the challenges that face the education sector."

"The government is not impressed by any chaotic conduct on the part of the student movement. Such behaviour, which is often masqueraded as mass action, will contribute nothing, now and in the future, in changing the approach of the government."

Yesterday Sasco members from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), the University of Cape Town and Peninsula Technikon marched on the technikon and UWC to protest against the crisis.

More than 300 students with outstanding fees were arrested for trespassing after failing to vacate a residence at UWC on Sunday, and police and private security guards were reported to be patrolling the University of Fort Hare after attempts to

reaching proportions beyond our control. The president is now the only person with the capacity to deal with it, and we call on him to assist us."

Fort Hare vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzama said he had ordered that any students attempting to halt registrations be arrested after reports of fresh disruptions late yesterday. Mzama said students owed Fort Hare about R24m.

Mamabolo said he had met Mzama yesterday in an attempt to defuse the situation on the campus and "open the channel of communications".

Mamabolo said they had agreed to a "bosberaad" to be held before Wednesday between students, the administrations and

halt registrations at the campus.

Sasco national president Jacob Mamabolo, who has been sent to Fort Hare by Sasco to broker talks between students and the administration, said students who had not paid their tuition fees were being prevented from entering the campus by police and security guards. He said there had been scuffles with police during a demonstration, and that police continued to maintain a heavy presence on the campus.

Mamabolo said: "We are very demoralised at present. Management are not doing anything but calling in police."

"You cannot run your institution with the police."

"The situation here is very bad. It is

other university stakeholders.

UWC remained closed for a fourth day yesterday as students and administrators sought consensus on how to recover outstanding tuition fees. The administrators also agreed to allow students with outstanding fees who have been squatting in the university's student centre to move into one of the residences.

Sapa reports UWC said yesterday it would open again on Monday for registration and orientation. The 300 students arrested for trespassing on Sunday would be temporarily accommodated in a hostel in Belhar. The university said students with outstanding fees would not be allowed to register unless they paid 40% of their debt.

UNIVERSITY FEES CRISIS

DD 6/2/98

(54)

# A new matric mess in W Cape!

Embattled Western Cape schools are facing further problems as pupils begin another year without textbooks.

Shortage of money and lack of planning have meant no books – a disaster, especially for matric pupils.

Publishers say the orders placed by schools this year were particularly small and were arriving irregularly. Each school has been allocated a budget by the Western Cape Education Department to buy books, but many say this is not enough.

Schools place their orders with bookshops, who then order from the publishers, who in turn instruct the printers as to the size of the order.

Butuniko High School in Khayelitsha was promised its textbooks by this week. Principal Victor Mboleka said teachers

were giving students temporary notes in the meantime.

“This is bad news for matric pupils and is not the way we should be starting the new school year. We were told by the publishers that we definitely would be getting our books this week.”

Matric pupils were waiting for business economics and Xhosa literature.

Fezeka High School in Guguletu has the same problem.

Deputy principal Diana Motolwana said the school was told by the publishers that the books they needed were out of print.

“We placed our orders in May last year, but we have still not received all our textbooks. It is affecting our schoolwork tremendously.”

“I have only one textbook for certain sub-

We're well into the third week of what is expected to be another turbulent school year.

Apart from teacher numbers dwindling and class numbers increasing, and the challenge of finishing their school careers, many matric pupils find they don't even

have the basics, such as books, to get started. **LENORE OLIVER,**

**MANDLA MNYAKAMA and MOSES MACKAY** investigated.

jects and then I have to make photocopies, but this is not practical when a subject covers more than a couple of pages.”

The school, which offers Xhosa, Sotho and Tswana, needs books in all three languages, as well as economics.

On Sunday, a meeting between staff and parents was called at Khayelitsha's Luhlaza High School.

Parents were told the school budget had

been cut to R46 000, and each pupil would have to pay R150 for books. This was on top of school fees of R60.

“Parents were upset and could not believe it. We haven't yet supplied books to pupils and this is delaying them,” said principal Mzwandile Hewu.

There have been no problems at Langa High, says principal Poobalan Murrugan, but a meeting is to be held on Sunday at which

staff and parents can raise issues that concern them.

At Sshembele Matiso in New Crossroads, school spokesman Norman Ncaca confirmed they were waiting for books. “In the meantime, we have asked pupils to bring their old books from last year. It was hardest for the Grade 8s (Standard 6) because they had to go out and buy new stationery in order to have something to use.”

Mr Ncaca said a plan to start pupils using files, a step towards outcomes-based Curriculum 2005, had been dashed by the book delay. An amount of R109 000 was allocated by the Government to the school this year.

Koos Nel of Little Big Bookstore in Parow said many delays were caused by printers having to reprint certain books. “But it is rare that the books are actually out of print.

It is difficult for publishers to know exactly how many books will be needed, so they estimate. The shortage of books is an annual problem because publishers don't know the numbers until orders are placed.”

A spokesman for Juta & Co said they could place an order with the printers only if they had been given a firm order of reasonable size. He said most of the budgets allocated by the department were small and schools battled to buy books within that budget.

Chive Gillitt, Maskew Miller Longman's sales and marketing director, said the company had very low textbook sales.

He emphasised that publishers were not understocked, adding that 99% of their books could be delivered to bookshops on a day's notice. “Our availability situation is quite healthy.”

**no textbooks**

(64) ARG 5/9/98

# UWC halts campus registrations

## Electronic system introduced after fees stand-off

NORMAN JOSEPH AND BEAUREGARD TROMP  
STAFF REPORTERS

The University of the Western Cape has suspended orientation and registration procedures which require students to be on campus for the next two weeks.

UWC spokeswoman Belinda Glass said if circumstances should require an extension of this period or become such that registration may again become possible on campus, students would be advised.

She said an alternative method of registration had been implemented that would enable students to register and/or verify their registration by post or by electronic means.

Meanwhile students across the Peninsula say they will hold tertiary institutions to ransom until the financial crisis at the university is addressed.

This was the message today from student leaders from Peninsula Technikon, the University of the Western Cape, the University of Cape Town and national student organisations from around the country who converged on UWC at the start of a campaign of rolling mass action.

Students planned to march to Parliament in a move timed to coincide with the opening ceremony. Student registrations are taking place at UWC but Student Representative Council chairman Goodenough Kodwa has vowed that if no agreement is reached with the university administration "registration will not take place".

Student bodies throughout the country are at loggerheads with uni-



ROY WIGLEY

**Spreading action:** Peninsula Technikon students join the protest against exclusions from tertiary education institutions

versity administrations which are taking a hard line on students who owe fees, refusing to re-admit them.

The University of the Western Cape is by far the worst off, being owed R52-million by students.

Yesterday about 150 chanting SRC members from UWC, UCT, Pentech and Cape Tech gathered at Pentech.

his fees for a BA Development Studies degree. He has been accepted for the course but has no money.

Last year Zuko completed his BA, majoring in history and psychology. He said he had applied to several sponsors for help, including the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa, without success.

"I don't know where I'll get a job with a BA degree," he said.

Another student who has not joined the protests is Sityo Kutlashe, 28, of New Crossroads.

## Those who worry at a distance

NORMAN JOSEPH  
STAFF REPORTER

Many University of the Western Cape students, desperate for money to pay their fees, are keeping out of protest action.

Instead they sit and worry about how to get the cash and watch the demonstrations from a distance.

Zuko Baninzi, 29, of Knysna is one such student.

He needs R6 500 to settle his debt to the university and pay a deposit on

"I am desperate for money. I need R2 500 as an upfront payment to complete my fourth and last year of a BA library science degree," he said.

Yesterday hundreds of students arrived on campus to register and pay deposits on fees.

Xolile Ntsinde, 24, of Philippi took a temporary job which enabled him to pay a R2 000 deposit to start his BA social work degree.

Eva De Wee came all the way from Hanham near Calvinia to pay her son Henry Wilskut's R2 000 deposit.

"We have to stand together here because next week when UCT opens they will be faced with the same problems," said South African Students' Congress (Sasco) secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshtanga.

Sasco warned Pentech rector Brian Figaji and UWC rector Cecil Abrahams to respond to student

demands within 24 hours or mass action would follow.

Demands included that Pentech administration open negotiations to find a formula to accommodate penniless students, and to accept as a deposit whatever cash students were able to muster towards their fees.

Student bodies are calling for the

government to intervene, asking for the crisis to be declared "a disaster in higher education", and to place a moratorium on financial exclusions.

From Pentech the students marched to the neighbouring UWC campus, where hundreds of students were waiting to join the protests.

Security officers formed a human chain to protect the administration buildings. Police appeared at the main entrance gates but kept their distance. After 30 minutes of chanting and waving placards carrying slogans such as "We can pay what we can afford", Professor Abrahams appeared on the steps. Students stormed forward but were held back by security officers.

UWC SRC spokesman Otto Njamela read out some of the demands in a memorandum:

■ That tertiary education was the state's responsibility, and that the state should provide loans and bursaries to all deserving students.

■ That UWC should find funds for students.

■ That all UWC residences be reopened and charges of trespass withdrawn against students who were arrested last week.

■ UWC commit itself to a process of negotiations in good faith to resolve the financial crisis without refusing the disadvantaged their right to learn.

Professor Abrahams told students that the university would discuss the demands. Negotiations would continue "so that the historically disadvantaged will have a chance to contribute to the country's advancement".

most UWC students live, to contribute," said Ms Scott.

Estate agent Theresa Rhode of Bellville South, offered a house to accommodate four students at a rate they can afford. Students moved in yesterday.

The Cock Pit trust fund will be administered by the law firm Scott, Blignaut and Associates. Businesses or individuals willing to help should contact Ms Scott at 951-6278. — Staff Reporter

## Rescue fund launched

A Bellville South pub owner has launched a "rescue fund" to help University of the Western Cape students pay their fees.

Judy Scott, owner of the Cock Pit, has been providing free food to some of the impoverished out-of-town students who have been evicted from UWC residences.

"I will put R5 000 into the fund to get it started and I appeal to other businesses across Cape Town, but especially in BellvilleSouth where



Hot seat: UWC rector Cecil Abrahams speaks to demonstrating students at the campus

## Tension mounts as campus crisis grows

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg — Tension and student militancy at several universities in the country has mounted after authorities and student organisations failed to reach agreement over the payment of outstanding fees.

A potentially explosive situation was avoided at Fort Hare University in the Eastern Cape when authorities met South African Students Congress president Jacob Mamabolo for three hours after a student demonstration yesterday.

The students threatened to ram-page if management refused to meet their representatives.

Mr Mamabolo said he met university management to diffuse tensions after the authorities locked the students out and refused to see the students' representative council.

"The management refused to see the SRC because even the SRC members have not yet paid their fees. My concern is that there is a heavy police presence outside the campus, which has given the students the impression that we are going back to the difficult days of the past," he said.

But management at other tertiary institutions are treating defaulting students with less confrontation.

A spokesperson for Vista said that two weeks ago the total student debt

stood at R26-million.

"We have had initial talks with the SRC and they have promised to ask their members to make suitable arrangements to settle their debts," he said.

Wits media officer Peggy Jennings said that by the third week of January, student debt was R10-million.

"We have a firm policy to admit only students who have paid their fees. We always encourage those needy students to make arrangements with the university and every effort is made to avoid excluding academically-sound students," she said.

The Vaal Technikon is owed R8,8-million in outstanding fees. Rand Afrikaans University has about R1-million to recover and Pretoria University about R3,2-million.

Pretoria University media officer Leon Rademeyer said total student debt was about R11,3-million at the beginning of last year, but the figure had been reduced to about R3,2-million by the end of the year.

He said students who had completed a year of study, but had not settled their debts for that year, might be refused access to their next year of study until their debts had been paid.

"We have a legal division which may take legal action against defaulters if necessary," he said. "However, the university's policy is to take legal action only as a last resort."

# UWC rector is no stranger to hardship

## Abrahams recalls the struggle to finance his studies

ANDREA WEISS

University of the Western Cape rector Cecil Abrahams, the man in the middle of the storm over student debt at UWC, is no stranger to financial hardship.

At the end of his first year at Lesotho's Roma University, Professor Abrahams had no idea where he would find the funds to continue his studies.

He wrote a letter to the editor of The Star newspaper in Johannesburg asking whether there was any company which would offer him employment during the university vacation.

Two responded, and he was able to register for the new year, later ensuring his academic success by winning bursaries to continue his studies.

"I certainly did not come from a family with much money, but the view of my family was that education was your passport to many things. Once you have education, you have something nobody can take away from you."

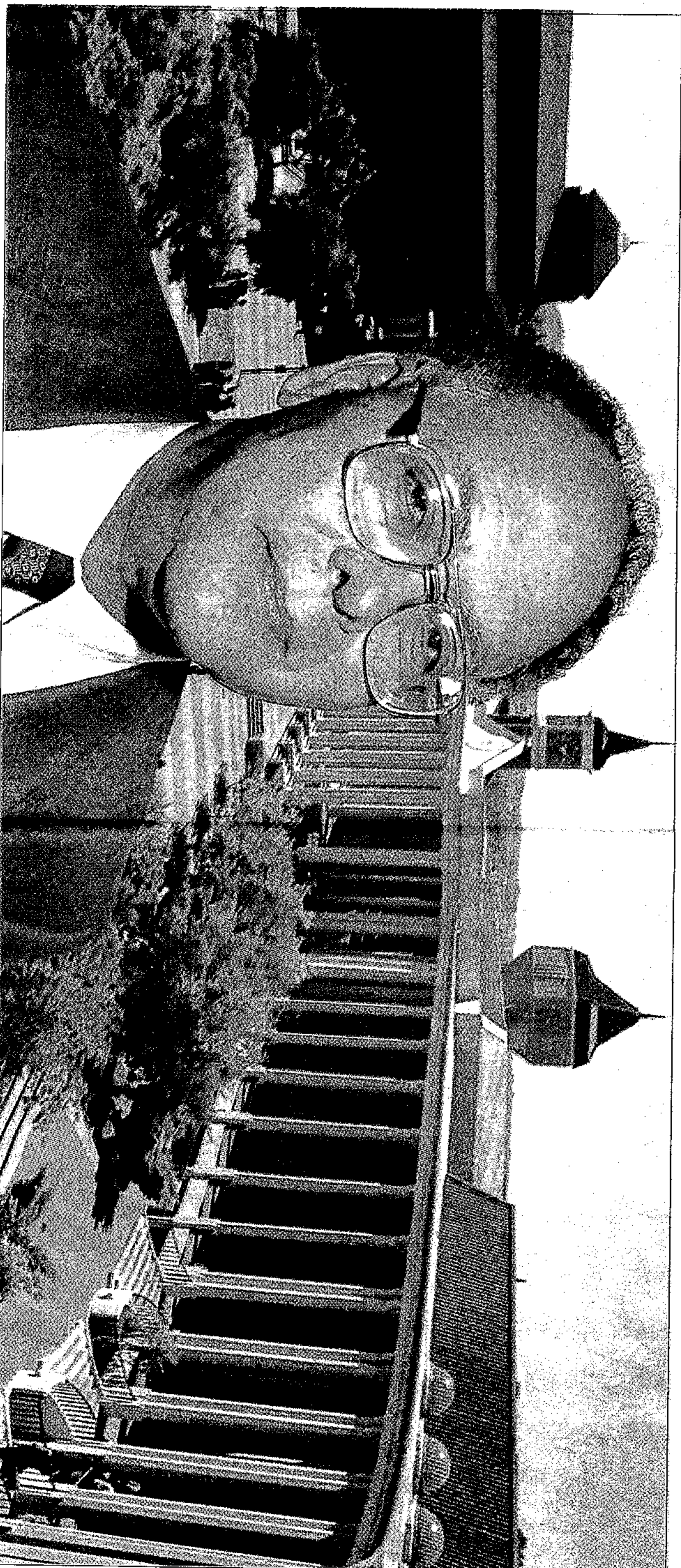
He acknowledges that he was lucky, perhaps, but his view of education has been borne out by a career path which took him to Canada where he obtained a PhD in English Romantic poetry and taught at several universities.

Today, a recognised expert in the poetry of William Blake, he has lectured widely in North America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and Fiji.

Two years ago, he returned to take up the position of rector of UWC at a time when the university already was struggling to collect its debts.

He makes the point that university education has "always been a privilege rather than a right". Higher education has two benefits: what you get out of it personally and the social good.

"I think that because you are going to benefit from such a higher education, it is important that you contribute to it," he said.



Man in the middle: University of the Western Cape rector Cecil Abrahams is no stranger to financial hardship: 'I think that because you are going to benefit from such a higher education, it is important that you contribute to it'

"There are many countries in the world where they don't charge for fees... but it is clear in South Africa that we are not financially able to do so and that a contribution must also come from the individual who bears the fit."

He adds: "However, we understand that there are many people deserving of an education, and their families might not be able to produce their share of the money."

He cites the example of David Mashisho whose story of financial hardship touched an anonymous Cape Town businessman's heart so

much that he donated the R10 000 he needed in order to register for study this year, saying that this was an example of a deserving case.

"People want to back those who are deserving of their education, who are performing, who are obtaining good results. It is easier to sell winners," he said.

The situation at UWC has changed this year. Students who register now are facing a far tougher line from the university administration.

With UWC's debt at R82 million, it has reached its credit limit with the bank, putting the university in a pre-

carious financial situation.

Students who register will be expected to pay a registration fee as well as a percentage of their debt or face being "deregistered".

Those owing R15 000 or more are being asked to bring their parents or guardians to the university where an arrangement can be worked out.

The university also has established a debt-collecting unit. But judging by posters demanding "No financial exclusions" displayed on campus, this is not going to be an easy dispute to resolve.

There are also indications that the

battle might become a three-way fight between paying students (who will demand their right to undisturbed education), non-paying students and the administration.

It is also likely to have a ripple effect around the country with the other nine historically disadvantaged universities expected to take a strong line against debtors.

This is in terms of a decision taken in Port Elizabeth by the Historically Disadvantaged Universities Forum, which Professor Abrahams chairs. The debt for the 10 universities is about R370 million.

Among the problems facing these universities is the manner in which students have been paying off their debts.

At UWC, the experience has been a trickle of payment throughout the year, and then a rush at the end of the year when results are withheld until the fees are forthcoming.

This effectively means the university is having to roll over debt from year to year.

At the end of last year, an effort to reach an agreement with the student representative council over minimum payments also fell apart over a

"It is a problem that has to be addressed at a national level. Our shrinking financial resources have been stretched to the limit and we are no longer in a position to continue offering the type of assistance that, in essence, is the responsibility of the Government," he wrote.

"It should not be left to institutions to fight prolonged and running battles with students over financial exclusions at the expense of its academic programmes for which it is, first and foremost, responsible."

Among the strategies that Professor Abrahams has in mind is the establishment of a national loan scheme which would be underwritten by the Government.

He concedes that one reason why students balk at taking loans is because they fear they might not find jobs in the workplace, particularly those in the arts courses. Many of the students deepest in debt are registered for arts degrees.

He suggests that where students are unable to continue their studies, they should consider taking fewer classes, studying part-time or taking a break to earn money. He says the university wishes to move away from "blanket agreements" to examining individual cases.

■ Late yesterday indications were that the student representative council were close to reaching an agreement but this would need ratification by the student body.

AKU 7/2/98



# NO MORE DEBT, VARSITIES VOW

## *Students forced to cough up*

(54)

ARG 7/2/98

**ANDREA WEISS AND TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING**

Universities throughout the country are bracing themselves for a turbulent year after a joint decision to take a tough stand against student debt.

Outstanding debts at South Africa's 21 universities amount to about R500-million.

In an effort to recoup debt, the vice-chancellors of 10 universities that class themselves as historically disadvantaged decided at a Port Elizabeth meeting that students would have to pay a minimum sum before being allowed to register.

In an exclusive interview with Saturday Argus, University of the Western Cape vice-chancellor Cecil Abrahams, who also chairs the forum for historically disadvantaged universities, said: "If we all stick to what we agreed, then I think many a campus will find itself in serious trouble because there will be disruptions.

"Those disruptions also might lead to closing down campuses. They might lead to reduced numbers of students at various campuses.

"We are looking at a very difficult year, indeed a very turbulent year for campuses where there is high student debt."

The 10 universities are owed R370-million.

The University of the Western Cape fired the opening salvo this week when it evicted

students from residences and refused to register those who did not pay the minimum amount required.

After two days of closure and a student march, the university reopened on Thursday.

Yesterday, the administration and the student representative council were locked in negotiations over what the minimum amount would be.

Indications at the time of going to press

be considered on merit for students with a satisfactory academic record who received financial aid. He said more than 91% of the R163-million in fees levied by UCT last year had been paid.

The debt is expected to drop considerably by mid-February as students settle accounts before registering for 1998.

The University of Fort Hare also has told students they will not be allowed to register unless they settle their debts.

Professor Abrahams said the vice-chancellors had decided the Government was not going to bail out the univer-

sities. "We are forced into a situation where we are going to have to manage our subsidies that have not grown, that are not adequate enough to cover the cost of all these institutions and, at the same time, we have this massive student debt."

Professor Abrahams said that the national Department of Education had been informed of the line the universities were taking.

He said the rectors of the 10 universities kept in touch with each other to assess the situation regularly.

"We certainly phone each other all the time, because we want to know what is going on. We will assess the situation.

"We might have an emergency meeting within the next few weeks to see how the situation is going."

### UWC rector is no stranger to hardship - page 4

were that an agreement was in the offing, but it still required the approval of the student body.

About half of UWC's 14 000-strong student body owes the university R52-million.

Other universities, which have yet to open their doors for registration, are preparing themselves for disruptions. The South African Students' Congress has called for a meeting with Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to ask for funding for students.

Students owing more than R400 in outstanding fees to the University of Cape Town (UCT) will not be allowed to register for 1998.

Outstanding fees account for R13,4-million owed to the university.

Martin West, UCT's deputy vice-chancellor, said individual cases of hardship would

# Pay up or get out, students warned

(54)

CYRIL MADLALA  
Parliamentary Correspondent

578/2/98

THE government is to tell defaulting students, who owe tertiary education institutions around R500-million in unpaid fees, to pay up or get out.

The move has the backing of President Nelson Mandela, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu and the ANC Parliamentary caucus, which was briefed on the financial state of universities and technikons by Bengu this week.

The message is expected to be conveyed by the government to the South African Students Congress — which has been at the forefront of demands for admission for indebted students — within the next two weeks.

Mandela has already publicly said that the government will not help students who have been locked out of universities for non-payment.

"We are certain no money will be given," Thami Mseleku, Bengu's adviser, told the Sunday Times.

Bengu said: "At many institutions it will not be possible to readmit all students with outstanding fee debts. Resources are limited so priority will be given to financially needy students who are making progress and who make reliable repayment arrangements."

Mseleku said bailing out the students would set a precedent that would derail the government's plans to upgrade formerly disadvantaged institutions.

He said Trevor Manuel, the Finance Minister, was adamant that all government and provincial departments had to live within their means.

Bengu said the government was com-

mitted to facilitating the access of poor students to higher education, but this did not translate "to a policy of free higher education, an option which is not affordable in the context of the many demands on the national Budget".

He said it had always been the government's view that students should contribute to the cost of their education, but that mechanisms had to be in place to support academically successful students in financial need.

"For 1998/99 alone, the government's contribution to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme will be R300-million. An additional R37-million has been procured from donor contributions and I hope the scheme's total funding will come close to R400-million by the end of the year," Bengu said.

The vice-chancellors of 10 historically disadvantaged universities are implementing measures to recoup debt, and students now have to pay a minimum sum before they are registered.

Dr Isaac Mabindisa, the registrar at Fort Hare University, said "squatting" would no longer be tolerated on campus and unregistered students have been removed from the hostels.

Fort Hare is owed R26-million in unpaid fees from last year. It is demanding an upfront payment of 25 percent of current fees and settlement of 1997 fees.

The University of the Western Cape also refused to admit students with outstanding debts this week.

Parks Mankahlana, spokesman for Mandela, said there was no crisis in education and that the government was not impressed by students' chaotic conduct.

● See page 5

# Campus battle hots up as debt crisis mounts

ST 8/2/98 (54)

CAS ST LEGER and  
BABALWA SHOTA

ALL that stands between Ntuthuko, 23, and his aim of studying for an MBA degree is the R2 600 he owes for last year's university fees. At least that's the way he sees it.

The third-year BSc student, who is too embarrassed to have his surname published, is one of the thousands who are in arrears with their university fees and who are being prevented from registering for the 1998 academic year.

The combined debt of students like him is estimated to have reached R500-million, one third of the combined budget of South Africa's 21 universities. The historically disadvantaged universities, like the University of Durban-Westville, which Ntuthuko attends, bear the brunt of the burden.

Ntuthuko said: "I don't have the money. My father earns about R1 000 a month as a caretaker at a white school. I can't get a bank loan as the bank says he must earn R3 000 to qualify as guarantor.

"The government must be responsible for our fees. There is so much money that gets wasted on other things."

Thumlani Mpanza, 19, who attends the same university, completed the first year of his B Comm last year and has his heart set on becoming a chartered accountant. But failure to achieve that goal would come as no surprise.

An orphan who was raised by his brother, he owes R4 000. On Friday, as he watched the deadline for registration creep nearer, he did not have money for food — let alone education.

Thumlani laughed when asked if the university would assist him financially. "They ask so many things before they will help — like a letter from a parent. My brother is a technician and earns a reasonable sum but he is married with a family of his own to care for."

Two people who made it through another traditionally underprivileged university are 20-year-old twins Carmen and Cindy Jacobus.

The pair, who graduated with BSc degrees from the University of the Western Cape last year, are going to Stellenbosch University this year to read for honours degrees.

They are opposed to free higher education. "When you go to university you have to be responsible and see to your financial needs," they say. "We had to make a lot of sacrifices. We had to get bursaries. Our parents had to help with the tuition fees, and we took part-time jobs. And look where we are today — it was all worth it."

This year's problems have been an almost annual event at campuses in previously white areas. But the universities which have traditionally catered for black students

---

*'We had to make a lot of sacrifices. We had to get bursaries. Our parents had to help with the fees, and we took part-time jobs'*

---

have taken a soft line in the past. Now they are in deep trouble and have little choice but to enforce a strict "pay as you learn" policy.

Last year, Fort Hare in the Eastern Cape was paid by about 500 of its 6 000 students. Its budget deficit was R36-million. The University of the Transkei faces student debt of R17,8-million.

The University of the Western Cape is owed more than R50-million in arrears and was forced to shut down its campus temporarily this week.

Traditionally privileged institutions that bit the bullet in the 80s — such as Rhodes, Wits and Port Elizabeth — faced student protests then but now have a well-established infrastructure to cope with those needing financial aid.

Rhodes University, for example, has a student debt of under R1-million, which is owed by about one percent of its 4 500 students.

The University of the Witwatersrand is owed about R10-million of last year's fees by 2 387 of its 18 000 students.

Gerry Hartman, spokesman for Vista University, where 20 000 of the 28 000 students are distance-learners, said the debt level was reasonable for the "poor, black community" Vista served. Vista stamped down on defaulters three years ago, encountering campus violence then as a result.

Professor Jos Grobbelaar, acting chief executive of the SA Universities Vice-Chancellors' Association, gave three prime reasons for this year's crisis:

- Government subsidies had been cut and universities were forced to rely more on student fees;

- There had been too much leniency in the past in an attempt to assist students; and

- Students had tried to let their unpaid fees build up to levels which made them impossible to pay, in the hope their debts would be dropped.

Students have a number of ways to pay their R6 000 to R12 000 annual academic fees. These include:

- Bursaries — which are sometimes provided by a parent's employer or can be granted by a wide range of organisations to students who obtain good marks;

- Student bank loans — acceptance by a university and a guarantee from a parent or guardian are prerequisites; and

- Loans from the Tertiary Education Fund of SA — underprivileged students can apply for support through this scheme, which is funded to the tune of R300-million a year by the state and R37-million by the private sector. Applicants must have good marks and are subjected to a means test.

Grobbelaar said all universities were funded at the same level, but there was a new "redress fund" for poorer universities and more money available to them for loans.

# SUNDAY ANALYSIS

## How to manage the varsity fees crisis <sup>ST 8/2/98</sup>

**M**UCH has been said over the past few weeks about the financial crisis in tertiary institutions. In some important respects the situation has been misinterpreted, and it is important that I set the record straight.

Despite media reports to the contrary, the government funding level to higher education institutions for the 1998/9 financial year has, in fact, been retained. This, in the face of serious financial constraints, is a measure of my ministry's commitment to support these institutions so that they may meet their core commitments to teaching, research and transformation.

However, the rate of increase of government funding to higher education is likely to be modest over the next few years.

By international standards, a relatively high percentage of the national budget is spent on education, and a relatively high percentage of that goes to higher education. In 1995/6, for example, 24 percent of government expenditure on education (1,2 percent of GDP) was spent on higher education. Yet the benefits which should be derived from this major investment of public funds are not always evident and several institutions continue to find themselves in serious financial difficulty.

The reasons for this are many and complex. Some historically disadvantaged institutions were significantly underfunded in the past. Student debts have been allowed to accumulate. Particularly in the late 80s and early 90s there was significant growth in black student enrolments.

Most of these students came from poor homes and were hard pressed to meet the cost of their education, especially

*It's not the government's job to micro-manage higher education, writes Professor SIBUSISO BENGU*



when no national student financial aid scheme was in place.

Many institutions responded by drawing on their own resources to provide bursaries and loans. This, compounded by increasing student debts and aggravated in some cases by management problems, has contributed to the weak or even desperate financial situation at some institutions.

This government is committed to facilitating the access of poor students to higher education. However, this does not mean a policy of free higher education.

It has always been our view that students must contribute to the cost of their education, but that mechanisms must be in place to support academically able students who are genuinely in financial need. The Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme have contributed over R1,2-billion in financial aid between 1994 and 1998, mainly from government funds, but strongly supported by international donors.

For 1998/99 alone, the government's contribution to the student financial aid scheme will be R300-million. An additional R37-million has already been procured from donor contributions and I hope that the total funding for the scheme will come close to R400-million by the end of the year.

The government intends

increasing its allocation to the scheme in future.

However, the scheme will only be sustainable and serve its purpose if loans are repaid and students pay their contributions towards their tuition and residence fees. Equally important is the need for higher education institutions to ensure that the resources at their disposal are efficiently managed so that debts are not allowed to reach unacceptable levels.

There is no single solution to the serious difficulties of some institutions. Universities and technikons will have to seek solutions appropriate to their situation. At many institutions it will not be possible to readmit all students with outstanding fees. Resources are limited, so priority will have to be given to needy students who are making academic progress, and who make reliable repayment arrangements.

There have been many calls for the department to intervene in universities and technikons. It is not the government's role to micro-manage institutions, but we have a duty to help the sector's painful transition to a new democratic environment and assist its future growth. The Higher Education Act and the Higher Education White Paper mark the culmination of an important phase of policy development.

The challenges of implemen-

(54)  
tation are huge, and the forging of a single higher education system will require attention to a number of key areas: planning, especially in relation to the size and shape of the system; funding arrangements which will promote the new policy goals; the establishment of appropriate governance structures; and capacity building to support the higher education community as it positions itself in the new policy environment.

As promised in the white paper, a funding mechanism will be developed by the department, in collaboration with the higher education community and the new Council on Higher Education. Key elements should be in place for the 1999/2000 financial year.

The new funding framework will allow for the affordable growth of the system, using empirically determined costs per student place. Funding decisions will be based on three-year rolling plans, minimising the fluctuations in annual allocations which are experienced by some institutions, largely as a result of changing student enrolment and performance patterns.

This will require the development of institutional plans, which will set out performance targets, including equity plans, related to the national plan for the sector.

In addition, funds for institutional redress at historically disadvantaged institutions will be available for the first time in 1998/99.

I am confident that the implementation of the policy imperatives of the white paper will position the higher education system to contribute to national development.

● Bengu is the Minister of Education



# Noisy Rag party leads to race clash at RAU (64)

Star 9/2/98

BY THEMBAKAZI SKENQA

Racial clashes broke out at Rand Afrikaans University at the weekend when black students were attacked by their white counterparts and security guards for disturbing the peace at the campus.

The students were celebrating their annual Rag show. Black students organised their own party because they felt the Rag party did not represent the interests of all racial groups.

The black students' party continued past midnight and a group of irritated white students, who said they could not sleep because of the noise, fought with the revellers.

The black students alleged that campus security guards joined in the scuffle, assaulted them, punched them and threatened to set dogs on them.

Pan Africanist Students' Organisation member Malcolm X said everything was under control until a group of white students intimidated the black students: "Everything got out of hand when the security guards came for me and arrested me for no apparent reason.

"They took me to their office along with my two friends, whom they assaulted in front of me. At the time of my arrest the party was over," he added.

SRC president Brand Pretorius said: "This is the first time that a physical fight has broken out among the students.

"We are going to launch a full investigation and will leave no stone unturned to make sure such an incident does not happen again. This has put a strain on all we have worked hard for - to establish an institution where all cultures and races tolerate each other - but that will not stop us from working towards racial harmony here."

His sentiments were dismissed by members of the SA Students' Congress: "We've been trying to address the racism on campus but it has come to this for everyone to see that this institution is still racist," Sasco chairman Sethula Ramabu said.

# Court order backs UWC evictions

(54)

CT 9/2/98

**ERIC NTABAZALILA**  
STAFF WRITER

THE University of the Western Cape was granted a court order last night to evict unregistered students who are occupying its residence in Philippi.

Soon after the Cape Town High Court granted the order, the university asked police to enforce it. University sources said last night the occupants of the residence would be evicted at 7am today.

The university is engaged in a stand-off with elements of its student body who owe the institution money and must pay stipulated minimum amounts to qualify for registration.

In terms of the order, until such time as they have registered as students the respondents — the university's Students' Representative Council, SRC chairperson Mr Goodenough Kodwa and 356 others — may not enter university premises or property other than for "bona fide" student activities, and may not remain on the campus or any university property other than between the hours 8.20am and 5pm.

The respondents were also ordered not to enter or occupy any university residence or hostel unless registered as students by consent of the university; and restrained from inciting, instigating, calling for, engaging in, supporting or organising any disruption of university activities.

They were also restrained from taking any university staff member or student "hostage"; unlawfully restricting the freedom of movement of such people; and from threatening or intimidating them.

The respondents are entitled, according to the order, to exercise their rights under Section 17 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa to gather and protest, provided they do so lawfully.

The court order came after failed negotiations between the university administration and the SRC. According to an earlier agreement, the students were supposed to vacate the Philippi residences by Friday afternoon.

The university was supposed to start its orientation programme today but a UWC spokesperson said all academic programmes had been postponed.

# University warns against disruptions

(54) DURBAN 20/9/98 University of Durban-Westville management warned yesterday that while it upheld the right to peaceful protest, it would not tolerate intimidation, violence or disruption of campus operations in the new academic year.

In a statement issued by vice-chancellor and rector Mapule Ramashala, management said it had come to its attention that there were "agents provocateurs" seeking to destabilise the institution and undermine the university's achievements.

"A warning goes out to anyone seeking to promote ethnic, tribal or racial sentiments that such persons will be severely dealt with. Such mobilisation is a relic of the discredited apartheid past and will not be tolerated on this campus," management said.

On the subject of outstanding fees, management said the student representative council had won significant concessions, such as the lowering of the pass-rate qualification for financial aid from 60% to 50% for second and third year students.

"A substantial number of students have been assisted by the generous financial aid scheme which pays up to 70% of fees with the student liable for the remainder." University management was firm about its decision to deny financial aid to students who had been failing.

Meanwhile, at the University of the Western Cape, negotiations between management and the university's student body over outstanding fees had failed to reach a workable agreement, the university said at the weekend.

A meeting held on Friday to discuss the minimum amount students would have to pay ended in deadlock, the university said. The university is owed R52m by half of its 14 000-strong student body.

The university suspended orientation and registration procedures which required students to be on campus after disruption on the campus last Sunday. A university spokesman said an alternative method of registration had been implemented that would enable students to register by post. — Sapa.

S  
t  
o  
t  
s  
t  
2  
M  
l  
t  
i  
r  
s  
g  
g  
m  
o  
r  
e  
N  
d  
A  
t  
A  
t  
M  
a  
t  
d  
w  
c

# Bid to stage rally at UWC

ARG 9/2/98 (54)

**CAROL CAMPBELL AND JOHAN SCHROEN**  
STAFF REPORTERS

Angry University of the Western Cape students were to attempt to hold a rally on the campus today to protest against the university's "hardline approach" towards students who have not paid fees.

Students have been banned from the campus except for legitimate academic activities.

The situation at the campus was calm today.

■ The SA Students' Congress would take universities refusing to register students who owe them tuition fees to court, Sasco secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said today.

He said Sasco would first declare a legal dispute with the universities and then seek court interdicts to force them to talk to the students.



# Tertiary education for all - a dream nurturing frustration

*Striking the balance for access requires negotiation*

ARG 9/2/98 (54)

## WIDE STORY

Universities must be open to bright young people regardless of their financial circumstances, says Special Writer **CAROL CAMPBELL**



Higher education is a privilege, not a right. This is the line the education ministry and university rectors are taking by forcing students to pay for their studies.

"Quite right! If they want to go to university, then they must pay." is the general attitude.

"After all, when we were at university we got loans, made sacrifices and found part-time jobs to pay for our studies," people proclaim.

But the majority of students who are not paying their fees haven't grown up in suburban homes, nor have they had the privilege of a reasonable Government education which helped them to get casual work.

These are people from the unmapped hills of this country and they are coming to the cities to get an education because they know that is the only way to escape the abject poverty which has ground their families down for generations.

"University". Just the word is a passport to a better life.

Students arriving at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) come from the Northern Province, Mpumalanga, the Northern Cape, the North West, the Eastern Cape - everywhere.

They come without letters of acceptance or money to pay for registration. All they have is hope and the ability to stick together.

Oh yes, there are cellphone-toting, Nike-wearing freeloaders who use the protests of the really poor to avoid paying fees they can afford, but most have nothing.

The really poor carry with them the aspirations of their whole community. Everybody for miles around knows that Sizwe, the clever son of Johanna, is going to university.



**Establishment blues:** UWC students who can't afford to pay have had to pack up their bags and leave the campus. This followed days of protests

They don't worry about details like registration fees or minimum contributions or outstanding debt.

They are poor, they voted for the African National Congress, they won, and now the ANC must let their children go to university.

Last week a student said the poor stood a better chance of getting an education under apartheid because then, university authorities, especially on campuses like UWC, were willing to accommodate everybody to get back at the Government.

Two years ago, just after UWC rector Cecil Abrahams took office, students descended on the university in much the same way they do now.

Their leaders - JJ Tabane, David Mashishe, Yvonne Dausab - were desperate themselves and negotiated so aggressively for the rights of poor

students to be allowed access that they won terms which suited the students. Students would pay a minimum contribution and be allowed to register.

Last year there was no trouble at the university because the students were still calling the shots, but this year the rector put his foot down.

Students were only paying the minimum contribution and not their full fees, which was why the university was sliding deeper into debt.

Now the university wants its money back. Students must pay 40% of their outstanding debt before they are allowed to register again.

Of course, students who owe huge sums will never be able to find the money in time.

For a student who lives in a mud hut in Venda, R10 000 is an amount he

cannot imagine. Unemployment is rife in these communities and apartheid, through the migrant labour system, has destroyed family structures. The change in government has given birth to great expectations of a better life.

So they come with bedrolls under their arms and many arrive without even a matric exemption certificate.

Until now, they have been accommodated in non-degree courses and were eventually allowed to creep into degree courses by earning enough credits.

Students tell you quite openly that they came to UWC and not the universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch because they stood a much better chance of being accepted.

If you don't have the money you simply don't get in at UCT and Stel-

lenbosch. Now, what to do? The Government wants to help the poor, but there is no money.

This means that not everybody who wants to go to university can be accepted. Students, university authorities and the Government have to sit down and decide who can get in and, once they are in, who will pay.

Universities must be accessible to bright young people irrespective of their economic status.

Letting in everybody, which is what has been happening at UWC, is going to end in disaster for all.

Together, the three major players must decide on the academic requirements for entrance to a university, make the national bursary and loan scheme user-friendly and somehow quash the expectation that higher education is for everybody.

# UniZul stands out as a bastion of achievement

*Sowetan 10/2/98 (54)*

**By Mokgadi Pela**

THE University of Zululand – once a hotbed of student activism to free the campus from ethnic-based learning in the 1970s and 1980s – has come a long way to win respect of many, especially its former critics.

Today UniZul stands out as a bastion of academic achievement.

It has dedicated itself to erasing historic inequalities and providing the advanced training necessary for meaningful economic and social participation.

To achieve this, the university has committed itself to expanding in fields such as engineering, agriculture, computer science and business management.

According to a glossy and well-prepared university brochure, UniZul was established as a constituent college affiliated to the University of South Africa in 1960.

It was granted full university status 10 years later.

Today, with a staff component of about 1 000, the university offers teaching at undergraduate and post-graduate levels in the faculties of arts, education, science, law, commerce, administration and theology.

These faculties comprise 58 departments altogether and offer a comprehensive range of diploma and degree courses.

UniZul has both a rural and an urban focus – the main campus is about 38 kilometres from Richard's Bay and a second campus was established in 1983 in Umlazi, 18 kilometres from Durban.

The two campuses – about 150 km apart – provide adult education opportunities for city dwellers and extension and outreach services for the rural population.

In its mission statement, UniZul says it "is committed to provide tertiary

education and to pursue knowledge, which serves the needs of the country in general and particularly those of the surrounding communities".

This mission was reiterated by the university's rector and vice-chancellor, Professor Charles Dlamini, who said in a recent address to the university council, he was committed to taking UniZul into the 21st century.

"The gateway to the 21st century is the pursuit of academic excellence in teaching and research. As teachers, we should stimulate and maintain the desire to learn.

"The type of student we produce should be comparable to what they produce at other universities," Dlamini said.

"In the case of our teachers, they should compare favourably with their counterparts in the country. They should be masters of their craft, generate and disseminate knowledge through teaching and research.

"Lecturers should attend conferences and deliver papers to their peers so that they could be properly judged."

Turning to administration, Dlamini said: "I'm in favour of service excellence. This means we are committed to serve our clients, courteously, efficiently and expeditiously."

Of course, not all has been rosy at the institution. The university was recently in the news after being rocked by scandals that it awarded degrees to "non-deserving students".

In the main, it appeared some students avoided writing examinations in certain subjects and then "bought" credits for those subjects. In response, the university withdrew the degrees of students involved in the scam.

Observers believe that by taking such bold steps, the university will soon be able to achieve its mission of gaining academic excellence – for the good of the institution in particular, and for the country in general.

# Top varsity man's message to tutors

*Sowetan 10/2/98*

By Mokgadi Pela

UNIVERSITY of Zululand registrar Professor Fikile Ndaki has a clear message for the university's lecturers – they must follow their careers out of love, develop research skills, communicate with students and have a burning desire to see others excel.

He stresses: "In no way should money feature as the primary reason for embarking on teaching as a career."

Ndaki believes making money the main objective of teaching amounts to a "betrayal of students and what I'm committed to is advancing the frontiers of knowledge and actively supporting others to excel".

He says any teacher worth his or her salt should "pride him or herself in having produced persons who are excelling in whatever stations they find themselves".

"It's not friendship I'm after, but devotion to duty and the achievement of excellence."

Ndaki says it is vital for teachers to understand the background of their students. "In our case in South Africa, we are dealing with a generation that is poignantly disadvantaged, people who have been exposed to a violent



**Professor Fikile Ndaki**

and dehumanising environment. This, unavoidably, has taken its toll on the individual's self-confidence and courage."

He advises teachers to further recognise that "there has been an erosion of the firm hold which adults had on the forces moulding the upbringing of children".

"Some of the values we have cherished in the past could not be sustained due to many distracting elements, which include negative influences in life."

# Five hurt in black and white clashes

*Sowetan 10/2/98*  
(54)

RAU students allege they were beaten up after being told their music was too loud

By Victor Mecoamere

**F**IVE students were injured in clashes between black and white students and the institution's security officers at Rand Afrikaans University at the weekend amid allegations of rampant racism.

South African Students Organisation chairman Mr Sethulá Ramabu and a Pan Africanist Students Organisation organiser who prefers to be known as "Malcolm X", said they were both assaulted when they objected to the disruption of their private in-residence party by the security officers while a RAU Rag party went on undisturbed in a nearby car park.

"We had permission from the town or residences manager Mr Deon Kruger to hold our own private party. But the security men said our music was too loud. We lowered the volume," said Ramabu.

"We were later accused of leaning on the white students' cars. When all the cars were driven off, only one car remained, a white Uno.

"Ironically, that car belonged to a black person. The white students and the security officers then told us to go to sleep. They started beating us at random when we defied the order," said Malcolm X.

Malcolm X, Mr Goitsewang Pholo, Mr Tumi Bodibe, Mr Ranako Mabunda and Mr Martin Sass were allegedly punched, kicked and hit with stun guns before being hauled off to the security officers' office, where they were further assaulted in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Ramabu and Malcolm X, who led a student protest in one of the university's foyers before being arrested again yesterday by the institution's security personnel, said Saturday's clash followed several racial incidents at the university, starting last year, during which black students had been beaten by both white students and white security officers.

## Assaulted

"We are being barred from setting foot in white residences, especially our neighbouring residence, Afslaan," said Ramabu, who claimed to have been assaulted by white Afslaan residents last Thursday and Friday.

RAU academic registrar Professor Paul van Staden said:

"We are aware of an incident during the rag party and we are looking into it. There was a bit of an overflow of the same incident yesterday. That is as far as we can comment on both matters at this stage."



# Sasco warns over varsity exclusions



Pan Africanist Students Organisation (Paso) organiser "Malcolm X" is pinned down by two Rand Afrikaans University security officers during a demonstration by members of Paso and the South African Students Congress (Sasco) at the Institution in Johannesburg yesterday. Paso and Sasco leaders said black students were being attacked mainly by white students. In the latest racial clash, five black students were injured on Saturday morning. See story on page 2.

PIC: MBUZENI ZULU

By Nthabl Moreosele

**T**HE South African Students Congress (Sasco) has threatened to go to court if universities continue to exclude students who cannot pay their fees.

Universities and technikons are refusing to admit students who have not yet paid their tuition fees, resulting in a debt of some R500 million at tertiary institutions countrywide.

Sasco said at a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday that it stood behind the students because of the "arrogance displayed by managements of many tertiary institutions".

## Financial grounds

The organisation has instructed its lawyers to ask the institutions to suspend their plans to exclude students on financial grounds within 48 hours. Failing that, the student body will go to court.

"We are not fighting for students who receive money from their parents to pay and decide to abuse it for material reasons," Sasco president Mr Jacob Mamabolo said.

"We are fighting for the poor students whose parents cannot afford to pay for tertiary education."

The student body has acquired the services of attorney Mr Brian Currin to advise them on the legality of their case and other areas of constitutional development.

Currin said yesterday that while he was not the attorney of record, he was helping Sasco in their legal fight.

"The tertiary institutions took a unilateral decision without adequate consultation with student bodies and the students themselves," Currin said.

"Students had expectations of being in universities this year so the

universities cannot change unilaterally overnight.

"This is not fair administration. An urgent application is being prepared to the Constitutional Court to have direct access to the court. But, if the universities respond positively, then Sasco will abandon the court action," he said.

Mamabolo said Sasco had explored a number of options before taking this step.

It had held consultations with officials in the Ministry of Education, asked President Nelson Mandela to intervene and appealed to the Ministry of Finance for funds to assist students pay for tertiary education.

"There have been no significant and substantive grounds to explain to us why the President cannot intervene in this crisis," Mamabolo said.

"I find it strange because the President called all the rectors in 1996 and intervened during that crisis."

Sasco said that it was mainly those institutions catering for historically disadvantaged students that were affected by the crisis in higher education. If these students were denied access to higher education it would perpetuate class differentiation.

## Deafening silence

"There is a deafening silence from the private sector. They are leaving the students to fight on their own.

"Ultimately, the historically disadvantaged institutions will collapse. The private sector has not come forward to help and will later say that the state has failed. This will lead to privatisation of education," he said.

Sasco will hold a news conference on Thursday at 9am to detail responses from the universities, to reveal their financial backers and the status of their court action.

*Sowetan 10/2/98*

# Sasco issues ultimatum on excluded students

*Star 10/2/93 (54)*  
**BY VIDA LI SI  
AND RODNEY VICTOR**

The South African Students' Congress has given tertiary institutions 48 hours to suspend their decision to exclude students in debt, or to face action in the Constitutional Court.

Sasco secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said yesterday the organisation was not advocating the non-payment of the approximately R500-million owed by students. What it was saying was that students should pay only once they were registered, he said.

"We consider as unfair and prejudiced the decision taken in December and January not to register students who can't pay their debts, without talking to student bodies beforehand. If students were registered, the institutions

could monitor the progress of their payment," Ratshitanga said.

He said Sasco would first declare a legal dispute with the universities and then seek court interdicts to force universities to talk to students so that fair arrangements could be made for the payment of arrears.

The students would also make a fresh appeal to President Nelson Mandela to intervene in the matter, he said.

Ratshitanga said Sasco would continue with protests and demonstrations to pressure the management of tertiary institutions.

Spokesmen for the universities of the Western Cape and Fort Hare, both of which have experienced student disturbances this year over the fees issue, said yesterday they were unaware of Sasco's ultimatum.

## Call for probe into 'racial (54) attacks' at RAU

Star 10/2/98

BY XOLISA VAPI

The Human Rights Commission may be called to investigate abuses allegedly inflicted on students at Rand Afrikaans University by campus security guards when racial clashes broke out at the weekend.

After marching to the university management yesterday, students belonging to the South African Students' Congress (Sasco) and Pan Africanist Students' Congress (Paso) demanded an independent inquiry to probe claims that they were assaulted, robbed, prodded with an electric cattle prod and beaten by security guards.

Paso spokesman "Malcolm X", who was arrested and later released, said the black students had organised their own party on Friday as RAU's annual Rag party was "too white".

---

# Guards use electric prods to break up RAU protest

(54)  
Jonathan Davis

SD 10/2/98

SECURITY guards used dogs and electric cattle prods yesterday to break up a peaceful demonstration by black Rand Afrikaans University students protesting alleged incidents of racism.

Heavily armed members of the university's security service broke up the gathering soon after students began singing and dancing in the university's central block yesterday morning. No warning was given.

About 40 members of the Pan Africanist Students' Organisation (Paso), the Pan Africanist Students' Movement of Azania (Pasma) and the SA Students' Congress (Sasco) had planned to march to the rector's office, and to what they described as "no-go" areas for black students on the campus.

A Paso member known as Malcolm X was detained after being overpowered by guards during the protest. He was later released.

Several other students also received electric shocks in scuffles with guards.

The march was organised to protest against an incident in the early hours of Saturday when black students at a party were allegedly intimidated by white students, who said noise from the party was keeping them awake.

Black students claim their party was broken up by campus security guards using dogs. Sasco chairman Sethula Ramabu, Malcolm X and another student were allegedly later detained and beaten by security guards.

Student representative council president Brand Pretorius described the incident as "very unfortunate". He denied the events were "racial incidents" between students at the university.

Speaking after being released, Malcolm X said he had again been beaten, shocked and strangled by security guards.

The student organisations are to meet with the university's senior management today.

---

# Students threaten to declare dispute over fees

Dustin Chick

(574)

BD 10/2/98

THE SA Students' Congress (Sasco) said yesterday it was ready to declare a legal dispute with 36 universities and technicians over their refusal to allow students who owed money to register.

Sasco said it was giving tertiary organisations 48 hours to respond to their demands or the organisation would make an urgent application to the Constitutional Court to have the institutions' decision overturned.

Sasco said it had written to all tertiary institutions asking them to set aside their decision. Negotiations with the management of the institutions would continue in an attempt to resolve the matter peacefully.

Sasco adviser Brian Curran said the unilateral decision taken by rectors and principals was unconstitutional because it excluded "fair administrative action" provided for in the country's constitution. Student representatives and organisations had to be consulted before the decision was taken, and it was important that they were given six months notice before the decision was implemented.

Sasco president Jacob Mamabolo criticised a statement by President Nelson Mandela's office which said there was no crisis in higher education.

He accused Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana, of being narrow-minded and arrogant and of misleading Mandela. This, he said, prevented

the president intervening as he had in 1996. The crisis facing education was far worse than it was in 1996, Mamabolo said.

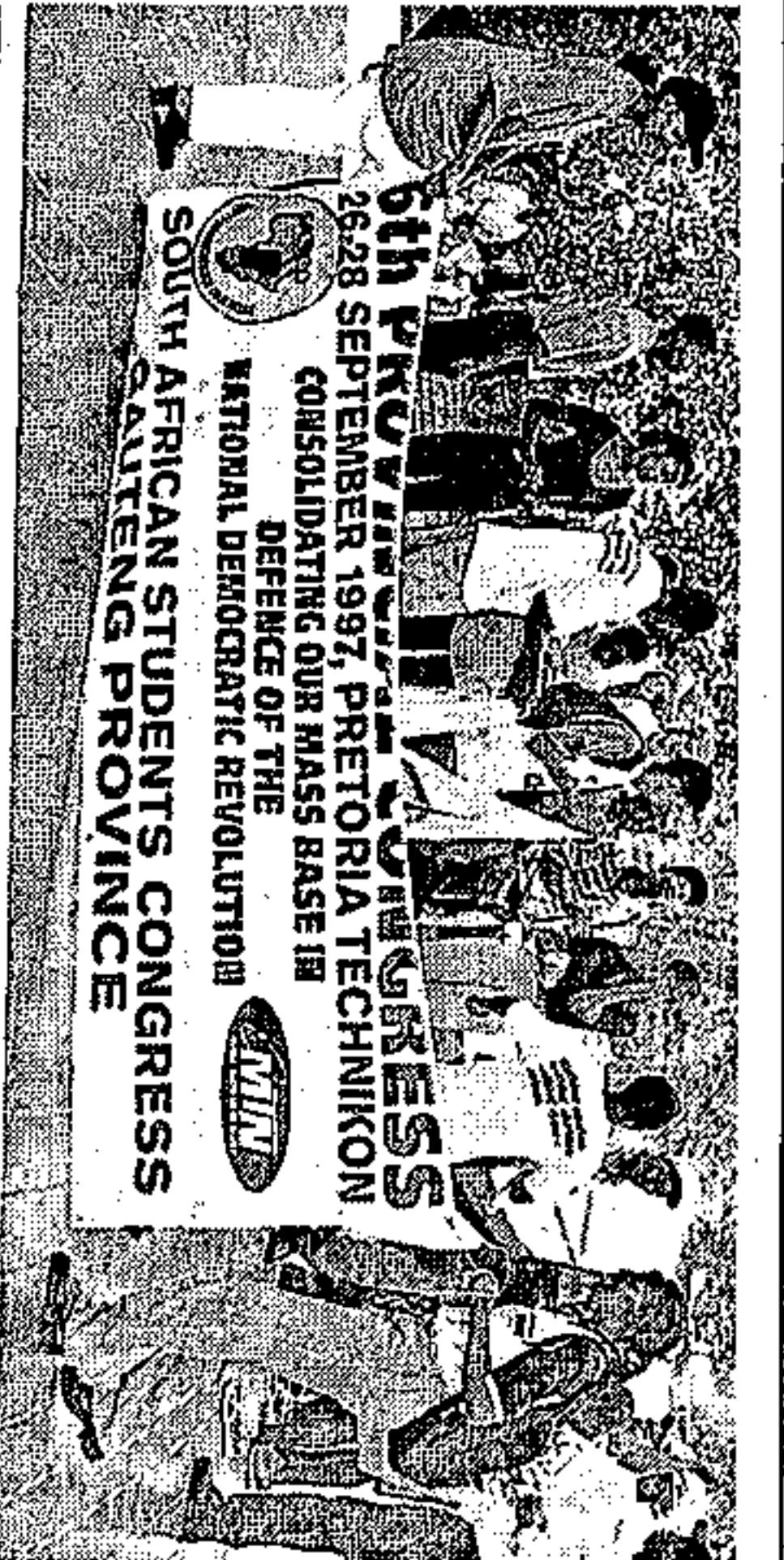
Sasco secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshtanga said the private sector was involved in a conspiracy to leave the student movement to fight government and the management of higher education institutions. Ratshtanga said this would lead to the closure of historically disadvantaged universities and technicians.

The private sector aimed to exclude poor students from tertiary education by not offering to help rescue bankrupt institutions.

Meanwhile, the management and student representative council of the University of the North have agreed to work together to resolve the debt crisis at the university.

The university has a debt of R83m and only 30% of fees was paid in full last year. The university and the council agreed to take collective responsibility for the debt and publicly called on students to settle their accounts or reduce their debt.

The university said it was irresponsible for any member of the university, including the council, to encourage a culture of nonpayment. The university and the council had entered into discussions to set up a fees-schedule timetable. There would also be a "budget indaba" to discuss the university's 1998 budget.



Security guards at the Rand Afrikaans University yesterday broke up a march by black students protesting incidents of racism. Student leader Malcolm X is overpowered by security guards, right, while campus security guards armed with electric cattle prods shepherd marchers from university buildings. Student protesters, above, await the result of negotiations with the student representative council. Pictures: TRONE ARTHUR

# Evicted students weary of the battle

*'We must pay, otherwise we are out'*

APG 10/2/98 (74)

**CAROL CAMPBELL**  
SPECIAL WRITER

**Bulging suitcases and bedrolls belonging to students evicted from the University of the Western Cape's residences lay strewn across the campus student centre - the last place they could go before giving up their hopes of achieving a university degree.**

For several days the university has been evicting unregistered students from residences and demanding an upfront payment of R2 500 and 40% of their accumulated debt before allowing them back into their rooms.

Yesterday the students listened attentively to fire and brimstone speeches in a mass rally but, when it was over, most looked as deflated and exhausted as Student Representative Council (SRC) president

Goodenough Kodwa. "What can we do? We must pay otherwise we are out. We have no choice," said one.

"I am going to look for a job now, then maybe I can study part-time," said another.

"We can't toyi-toyi anymore because it gets us nowhere. We are just arrested," she added.

"We must negotiate. We can't give up, this is the only way forward," said Mr Kodwa.

Despite hours of pleading, threatening, demanding and begging by student leaders, the university's rector, Cecil Abrahams, has remained adamant that fees and fee debts are paid.

"We have no choice," Professor Abrahams told a packed staff meeting in the university's main hall earlier in the day. "We are stuck, we have no money!" he said.

Access to the university would

also be restricted for the next few days and staff would have to show their identity cards, he warned.

Around the country, all the historically disadvantaged institutions are facing similar problems in recouping millions of rands in unpaid fees.

Thousands of students, thirsting for education and desperately poor, are queueing for what they believe is their only chance to escape poverty.

At the University of Fort Hare in the Eastern Cape, students are not being allowed on campus until they have paid the required fee and been registered.

■ The University of Durban-Westville was today bracing itself for a backlash from an outraged student council, after management yesterday refused to accede to demands for an extension of the registration process.

# UWC management and students reach agreement over unpaid fees

STAFF REPORTER

The two-week standoff between students and management at the University of the Western Cape has ended.

Students agreed after talks with the management last night to pay registration fees while the university pledged to assist needy students.

The university is owed R48-million, a debt accumulated over several years and

rector Cecil Abrahams is determined to control it.

Student Representative Council (SRC) president Goodenough Kodwa said they had signed the agreement to ensure everything could get back to normal on campus.

A university spokesman said students who did not have money to pay fees but who were academically strong would be helped to apply for loans from the Tertiary Edu-

cation Fund of South Africa.

There has been mixed reaction from tertiary institutions to the SA Students Congress' (Sasco) threat to go to the Constitutional Court.

On Monday, Sasco gave tertiary institutions 48 hours to respond to accusations that they had made unilateral decisions not to register students with outstanding debts by not involving student bodies in the process.

Sasco's constitutional adviser Brian Currin said that, if the institutions responded positively, Sasco would abandon the court action.

University of the North management and the SCR agreed to take collective responsibility to resolve the R83-million debt crisis. They called on students to settle accounts or reduce their debts.

University of Pretoria's media officer Leon Rade-

meyer said yesterday it had not received any official word from Sasco, and could not comment.

"The university is willing to assist in individual cases but cannot make that a general policy," he said.

The University of the Witwatersrand's senior media officer, Peggy Jennings, said vice-chancellor Colin Bundy had not received any letter from Sasco.

Star

11/2/98

(54)

# UWC to (54) re-open

## **STAFF WRITER**

UNIVERSITY of the Western Cape students agreed late last night to pay registration fees and the minimum required portion of their outstanding fees.

Mr Donald Baatjies of the university's campus protection services, said the agreement came after a student mass meeting at the university.

The university administration and the students' representative council would hold a joint press conference at the university today, he said.

Baatjies said the university's academic programme was expected to start tomorrow.

CT 11/2/98



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1998

# Students cut deal on debt to UWC

AKG 11/2/98  
CAROL CAMPBELL  
SPECIAL WRITER

(54)

Students at the University of the Western Cape have agreed to find money to pay their registration fees. They say somewhere and somehow they will find the cash and end the standoff with the administration which has crippled the university for nearly two weeks.

Student leaders and the university administration last night signed an agreement which acknowledges those who are too poor to pay fees. However, the agreement stipulates that these students must take financial responsibility for their education.

The decision by students to pay was taken at a meeting on the campus yesterday.

The university is now owed around R48-million by students, a debt which has accumulated over several years and which rector Cecil Abrahams is determined to rectify.

Student representative Goodenough Kodwa said each student would pay R2 000 to register and R500 to secure a room in residence.

A spokesman for the university said students who did not have money to pay the fees but were academically strong would be interviewed and helped to apply for a loan from the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa.

Those with debts, some well over R20 000, will still have to pay 40% of their outstanding fees before being allowed to register.

Those who had worked consistently and passed but had no financial backing would be able to ask the university for relief so that they could finish their studies, the university spokesman said.

# Denmark pledges R255m in development aid to SA

BS 11/2/98

CAPE TOWN — Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen pledged R255m in new aid to SA yesterday, saying charges that Allan Boesak had stolen Danish aid money had not soured relations.

Boesak will appear in court on Monday, but the trial is not expected to get fully under way until March.

A Danish aid agency, Danchurch, has accused Boesak, a leading anti-apartheid campaigner during the 1980s, of embezzling funds. He has pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Last year an accountant who had worked for Boesak at his Foundation for Peace and Justice was jailed for six years after being found guilty of fraud and theft.

"It is not our intention to interfere in that process. I think that is a sovereign decision of the SA government and community," Rasmussen said after a meeting with Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Denmark has provided about R515m to SA in development assistance since the election in 1994. Rasmussen is due to visit some of the Danish-funded projects.

The aid announced by Rasmussen is aimed at environmental issues and promoting stronger business contacts between the two countries. Rasmussen said a development aid programme would be extended for three years and provide a further R100m. Denmark will also extend R160m in environmental aid until 2002.

The Danish leader also pledged to

support SA's bid for a trade agreement with the European Union.

"We will do all we can to assist and support SA's interest in having an agreement this year with the European Union," Rasmussen told reporters after an hour-long meeting with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

Rasmussen, who began a week-long tour of SA on Monday, said he hoped a deal could be reached by the middle of this year.

"This new co-operation and trade agreement should be based on recognising that there should be a net advantage for the development of SA," he said.

Mbeki said access to development aid had been critical during SA's difficult transition period, but he said SA could not rely forever on foreign aid.

Mbeki said the focus would have to be placed on developing international trade relationships.

Trade between SA and Denmark has increased significantly since 1994, but Mbeki said he would like to see more Danish companies doing business in SA.

"We clearly want to see bigger, stronger interests by Danish business people in the SA economy.

"I'm sure later this year we will be taking some initiatives with regard to this issue," Mbeki said.

Two-way trade totalled R1,02bn in 1996, up from R636m in 1994 and R172m in 1992.

Rasmussen is to address Parliament today. — Reuter.

## Human Rights Commission to probe clashes at RAU

Jonathan Davis

THE Human Rights Commission confirmed yesterday that it would investigate allegations of racial clashes at Rand Afrikaans University (RAU).

Spokesman John Mojapelo said the probe would be independent of any investigation by the university.

Mojapelo said: "We are able to investigate investigations on our own initiative. We want to come in and see what happened."

The commission said it was concerned that security guards had used dogs and electric cattle prods to quell a student protest.

The commission was to meet student leaders and the university's management tomorrow, Mojapelo said.

This follows a confrontation between black students and security guards on the campus on Monday. Guards are alleged to have used dogs to close a party attended by black students on Saturday.

Yesterday black students threatened to boycott talks with senior management, scheduled for today, after failing to win concessions in talks yesterday.

Members of the SA Students' Congress (Sasco), the Pan Africanist

Students' Movement of Azania (Pasma), and the university's student representative council had met university management to discuss how an inquiry into the incidents should proceed.

Council president Brand Pretorius said management had agreed to prevent security guards from using dogs or electric cattle prods to quell student protests in future.

Sasco member Frans Machaba said Sasco and Pasma were considering boycotting today's talks as they felt management would continue to turn down their demands for an independent inquiry.

Machaba said management had refused to suspend two security guards until an investigation had been completed.

Black students have alleged that they were assaulted by the guards.

Machaba said the students also doubted assurances that the guards would not use dogs or electric batons.

Machaba said Sasco was concerned about the university's intentions as an internal investigation last year had been used to cover up a racist incident.

However, Pretorius denied that the incident last year, when a black student was injured while trying to enter the campus, had been covered up.

# Tutu tells students to bite the bullet

**TROYE LUND**

CT 12/2/98

(54)

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu has called on "well-to-do" tertiary institutions to support those that had always drawn students from disadvantaged communities.

Tutu also had sobering words for students who owe the country's tertiary institutions R500 million in fees, had reneged on past debt-payment schemes and were now pleading for government financial assistance because universities and technikons had got tough on debtors.

"At this stage in our country's life, when there are all sorts of priorities like health, housing, police and education, one wishes there were inexhaustible funds. The reality is that there are not.

"The University of the Western Cape (UWC), for example, cannot ask government to give R49 million to clear student debt.

"It is clear that unless universities find money they will close and students must be clear that if they are studying someone has to pay," said Tutu, who is also Chancellor of UWC.

If the state, private business and parents could not pay fees, students would have to "bite the bullet," he said.

In support of tertiary institutions' insistence that students pay a stipulated minimum towards their debt before being allowed to register, Tutu said: "This is an unhappy situation for those that cannot meet the payments, but it is the harsh reality that must be faced. This is the crunch.

"When we were at university we had to work and pay the fees."

Instead of pleading for government assistance, students could postpone their studies and work until they had saved enough or work while they studied.

Tutu said that historically disadvantaged institutions like UWC were now paying for the fact that they never had any reserves to rely on.

Reserves could never be built up because institutions like UWC had always "done everything possible" to educate the poorest students.

Tutu proposed that the private sector should contribute to a revolving loan fund that students would borrow from and replenish when qualified.

He said: "Universities like Stellenbosch, that have privileged students and wealthy alumni, have been able to build up considerable reserves.

"Well-to-do institutions could donate funds or raise funds on behalf of disadvantaged institutions."

He said wealthier tertiary institutions were able to attract funds from the private sector more easily.

# UWC strikes a landmark deal on debts

CT 12/02/98 (54)

**THE STUDENTS' Representative Council at UWC warned yesterday that rector Professor Cecil Abrahams' 'lack of goodwill' had lost him credibility among the students. Education Writer TROY LUND reports.**

**A** TRUCE has been declared between the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and its student body in a landmark agreement that was buttoned down just before midnight on Tuesday.

Students have agreed to adhere to the university's headline insistence that students cough up minimum payments to start recouping the R49 million it is owed in outstanding fees.

Aside from a stringent new debt collecting system, students have also accepted punitive measures that include kicking out defaulters.

Students who are unable to make the stipulated minimum contribution towards their debt and this year's tuition will be allowed pay what they can at registration.

These students will automatically be deregistered if they fail to set up an interview between UWC and their parent or guardian by February 28.

At this interview, parents/guardians must agree to take responsibility for the student's account and they must prove how they plan to ensure that the minimum contribution for registration is paid by June and the entire debt settled by the end of the year.

Close to 2 000 students owe between R10 000 and R30 000 and all students have to pay a deposit of R4 500 for tuition and residence this year.

The financial contract between UWC and students follows six months of deadlocked negotiations, lock-outs, rampaging student protesters, evictions and arrests.

The agreement sets out a way for tertiary institutions to collect debts and fees, run economically viable concerns and accommodate marginalised students.

UWC rector and chairman of the committee of historically disadvantaged institutions, Professor Cecil Abrahams, said: "Never in this country has there been such a comprehensive and tight agreement adopted by students and management. It will set a precedent for other institutions, particularly those that pride themselves in increasing access to education for marginalised communities."

In the event of students having difficulty in meeting the required payments towards outstanding fees or if their academic record is poor, the person taking responsibility for payment of the fees or outstanding debt will be summoned by university debt collectors.

These debt collectors will maintain regular contact with debtors and their guardians, even if this means trips to rural areas in other provinces.

Students with fees that remain unpaid will have their food credit frozen, be kicked out of residence or be deregistered.

Former students that have left the university with debts will also be tracked down.

Abrahams said: "The intention of the agreement is to ensure the financial sustainability of this institution and to assist students in meeting their financial responsibilities."

SRC deputy president Mr Xolile Nyanda said UWC management could take no credit for the "blueprint" agreement because it had handled disadvantaged student debtors in a "harsh and cruel" manner.

"They kicked us when we were down. The police were called in. We still have charges of trespassing laid against us."

"The agreement only came about because the SRC rose above the occasion and continued to press for a negotiated settlement when management refused to talk."

"No SRC in the country has come up with such a plan."

Nyanda warned that Abrahams' "lack of goodwill" had lost him credibility among students and that the SRC would have to "work hard" to convince students to adhere to the agreement.



**AFTER THE BATTLE:** Following the exhausting negotiations of the past weeks, SRC president Mr Goodenough Kodwe allowed his deputy to announce students had negotiated an agreement with UWC. SRC member Ms Chantal Arends sat next to him. **PICTURE: GARTH STEAD**

## Agreement reached on repayment of fees

THE UWC administration and the SRC have come to an agreement on the payment of student fees:

- All students, new and returning, must pay a minimum deposit of R2 500 for residence this year and R2 000 for tuition.
  - Students with a debt of R1 500 or less must pay in full.
  - Debtors owing between R1 501 and R3 000 must pay a minimum of R1 500 or 80% — whichever amount is greater.
  - Debtors owing between R3 001 and R8 000 must pay a minimum of R2 400 or 50% — whichever is greater.
  - Debtors owing between R8 001 and R12 000 must pay a minimum of R4 000 or 12% — whichever is greater.
  - Debtors owing between R12 001 and R15 000 must pay a minimum of R6 000 or 32% — whichever is greater.
  - Debtors owing between R15 001 and R25 000 must pay a minimum of R8 000.
- The university and the SRC have also resolved to raise money by:
- Approaching government for decisive intervention to resolve the crisis.
  - Increase fundraising efforts within the private sector and the international community.
  - Approaching the Tygerberg business sector to provide work opportunities for students.

---

# Durban hunger strike student in hospital

Jonathan Davis

BD 12/2/98

ONE of five students who started a hunger strike on Friday to protest against the University of Durban-Westville's refusal to re-admit "academically unsuccessful" students with outstanding tuition fees was admitted to hospital yesterday suffering from dehydration.

The university's director of public affairs, Kiru Naidoo, said the five were arrested for trespassing and suspended from the university after they occupied vice-chancellor Mapule Ramashala's offices on Monday afternoon. They were released later and continued their hunger strike in a tent at the university entrance.

After intensive talks between Ramashala and student representative council president Dumisani Ngcobo, the university agreed late yesterday to consider written appeals by the student council that the suspension of the five be lifted.

The university rejected demands yesterday by the student representative council that no students be excluded on financial or academic grounds.

Ngcobo said he was unhappy with the university's refusal to admit all students, as well as with

(54)  
the continued presence of police and additional private security guards on the campus.

However, he said the university's willingness to reconsider the hunger strikers' suspensions showed a willingness to negotiate.

Meanwhile, SA Students' Congress (Sasco) secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said the organisation would review tertiary institutions' responses to its threat to take them to the constitutional court.

Sasco claimed that universities and technikons had breached the constitutional right of students to "fair administrative action" in not providing six months' notice of their intention to refuse to re-admit students with outstanding tuition fees.

University of Witwatersrand vice-chancellor Colin Bundy responded yesterday to a letter from Sasco claiming the university had "unilaterally and at short notice changed its policy regarding admission fees and the recovery of outstanding debt".

Bundy denied there was any new policy in operation with regard to fees or re-admission. "Our policy with respect to access, admissions and fee payment remains the same," Bundy said.

# Signing up for student loans

MHG 13-19/2/98

*Becoming the grateful recipient of a student loan is an education in itself, reports **Belinda Beresford***

**T**he new academic year has arrived for tertiary students, and with it come the ever more ominous sounds of a university system about to break at its financial seams. Universities are threatening to bar students with unpaid debts, while student leaders in turn promise mass action.

Competition is fierce for bursaries, scholarships and sponsorships, many of which tend to be offered only for certain degrees. So, barring sudden windfalls, and given that many parents did not or could not start saving for university when their child was born, paying for tertiary education tends to mean borrowing from commercial banks.

In theory, banks worldwide like lending to students — it offers a way of catching potentially high-earning future clients at an early stage. But banks do not like supporting students, or anyone else, if it's too costly or risky.

Many of the conditions of commercial bank loans are dictated by the perceived risk a student represents. Probably the biggest safety factor for banks, and the most difficult hurdle for many students, is the need to find a guarantor who will pay off the loan if you default. Usually this is a parent, but banks say they are prepared to consider anyone who has the necessary credit record and financial backing.

Students are expected to make some contribution towards their tertiary education, so student loans are generally only expected to cover tu-

ition and actual university costs, as opposed to housing and other living expenses.

Typically, the capital loan for a full-time student is payable over the same number of years as the student's course, with a breathing period after graduation before repayments commence.

The interest rate you pay depends on a number of factors which vary from bank to bank. Your interest rates could be adjusted upwards if you fail a year, or come down if you do well. Some banks vary their charges according to the degree chosen. Medical students, who are more likely to get a job and therefore be able to repay their loans (assuming they don't emigrate), can receive lower interest rates than BA students.

These conditions help banks keep their risks down. Absa national student marketing manager Deon van Zyl says the default rate on student loans is "very, very low". Absa claims to be the leader in terms of student loans with about 34% of market share.

The most important thing is to shop around before signing on the dotted line for a student loan. One bank may reject you, but another may not — sometimes even different branches can make different decisions. And be prepared to argue on costs, since there can be a lot of flexibility.

One MBA student with a year of post-graduate law and an honours degree in engineering under his belt was offered a 22% interest rate by his bank, which regarded the money as a personal loan. He moved to another

(54)

bank which offered him 10%. The new institution is reaping the benefits as he climbs the career ladder, collecting an overdraft, housing bond, car loan ...

Unfortunately, no sooner have you got your hands on the money than, more often than not, you have to start paying it back by servicing your interest repayments. Standard Bank has recently moved on to this system, rather than adding the interest to the loan amount.

Marketing officer Peta-Jean Fellows says this is "good for the banks and for the student". It reduces the debts faced by new graduates and ensures the bank starts getting some money back immediately.

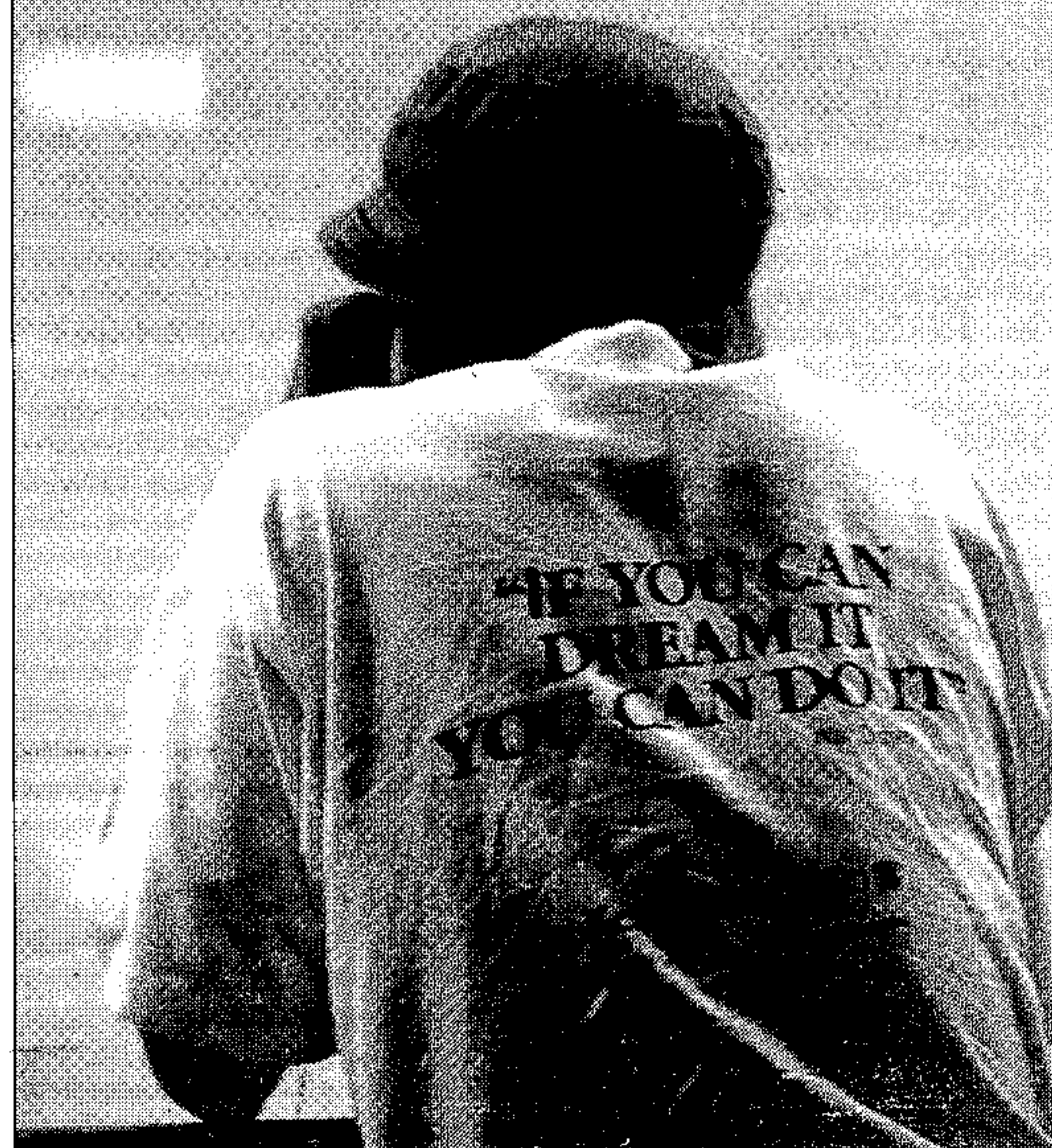
**I**f you get turned down for a commercial bank loan, ask why. Van Zyl says one failure of the present system is that loan applications are often rejected without a reason being given. Applicants need to be advised on, and taught how, they can change the decision, he says.

The most important way of changing a rejection is to build up a credit record if possible. Working for a year or two, preferably saving regularly, is likely to help convince a bank you are a safer bet. Also try negotiating with your bank; if you can't get a guarantor, it may be possible for two or more people to jointly underwrite your loan.

Studying part-time can be another option, although this has its own problems — part-time students are sometimes required to start loan repayments immediately.

Finding finance can be even harder for students wanting to study at institutions not recognised by the banks, such as vocational training at a private college. Standard Bank

UNDERGRADUATE  
ADMISSIONS



**Lucky: Mpho Thamaga is fulfilling his dream of a university education, but for many that dream is now impossible. PHOTO: NADINE HUTTON**

suggests such students look at alternative means of financing: overdrafts, revolving credit plans, or use of a credit card.

Van Zyl says the student-loan system is likely to evolve owing to the pressures facing tertiary education and the impact of private educational institutions.

Absa, for example, is looking at agreements where universities and technikons will stand surety for student loans. This will reduce the bank's risks — and hopefully its charges — by allowing continual monitoring of students' progress. It will also help

banks to ensure that student loans are not diverted to other purposes, such as paying off higher-interest debts.

If you cannot acquire a commercial bank loan because you can't provide a guarantor, one alternative is to get a loan via the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa).

This year Tefsa awards vary from R990 to R12 100, with interest starting to accrue from the beginning of April. Academically successful students may have up to 40% of their loan written off as a bursary. In such cases, the interest on that part of the loan is written off.

# UWC debt collector's odd deal

MHG 13-19/2/98

(54)

Andy Duffy

**T**he man responsible for controlling student debt at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) was tied to a bizarre contract for most of last year, which gave students the power to oust him.

Student debt had more than doubled to R60-million, steering UWC toward bankruptcy, by the time Professor Ikey van de Rheede's probationary contract with the students ended three months ago.

UWC vice-chancellor Cecil Abrahams says he does not believe the contract and the power it gave students over Van de Rheede compromised his will or ability to crack down on student debtors. But Abrahams says management of fee and debt collection was generally weak last year. He adds that the university council will never again allow its students such influence over senior appointments.

Van de Rheede, formerly dean of arts and professor of Afrikaans and Nederlands at UWC, was appointed vice-rector (student affairs) in October 1996 — subject to the students' 12-month probation clause.

This followed an appointment process involving every stakeholder on the campus. He was not a widely popular choice.

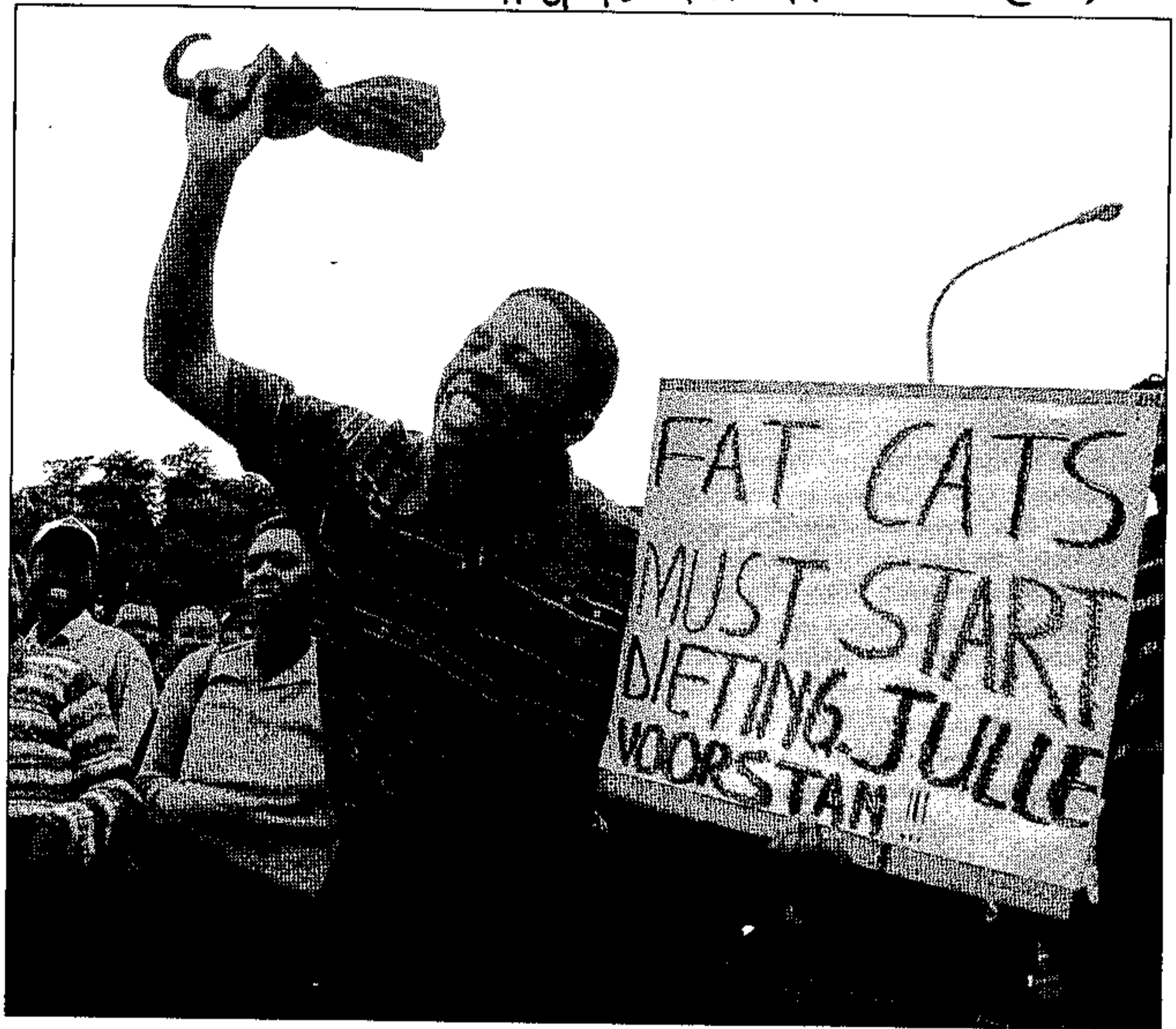
"When he accepted the appointment, the students were not keen on having him appointed straight away," Abrahams says. "The council expressed its concern, but [the probationary period] was probably one of the only ways we could have the issue finalised.

"The council allowed itself to merely ratify the decision taken by a process, including the probationary agreement. I think [Van de Rheede] was trying to do what he thought was the best job ... It is unfair to blame one particular person [for the ballooning debt]."

Van de Rheede's contract has nevertheless surprised and upset some university staff, who claim it is a stark example of the muddled thinking that landed UWC in its current financial mess.

Student debt to UWC stood at R28-million at the start of last year. Van de Rheede's proposals for collecting the debt and fees included minimum registration payments of just R200. Many students failed to pay even that.

Abrahams says he and the rest of UWC's executive agreed to the proposals, but Van de Rheede and registrar of finance Andre de Wet were responsible for monitoring the process. Neither was available for comment.



**Slicing away the fat: Universities countrywide are struggling to collect fees from students, who protest against debt-collecting measures. PHOTO: JEEVA RAJGOPAUL**

As the scale of the debt became clear late last year, Van de Rheede opened negotiations with the students, finally tabling payment proposals for 1998 that were far harsher than his requests for 1997. These included upfront fees ranging from R2 000 to R2 500, and a minimum contribution of 40% of outstanding debt.

The students initially agreed, but then reneged, leaving UWC dependent on its overdraft with Standard Bank to cover costs. UWC hit its R6-million overdraft limit last month, forcing Abrahams to warn staff in an internal memo that closure was imminent.

Days after the memo went out, however, the bank extended the overdraft to R10-million, with an interest rate of 19,25%. Abrahams says the overdraft and funds raised from students so far should enable UWC to cover its R12-million-a-month staff costs until April, when the first subsidy from the government comes through. Student debt has

now dropped to around R49-million, he adds.

Van de Rheede and the students' representative council agreed earlier this week to slightly revised registration terms. Abrahams estimates that fewer than 500 of the near-8 000 students who owed UWC are really too poor to pay.

As of Wednesday this week, UWC had 2 100 students registered. Just 800 of the debtor students had met UWC's registration terms.

● The senate at the University of Stellenbosch voted this week to effectively hand vice-chancellor Andreas van Wyk another five-year term when his current contract expires in June. The university's Student Alliance for Transformation, representing groups including political parties on the campus, says it will ask the university's council to insist Van Wyk outline his vision for the next five years before merely reappointing him.

The senate and council will meet next Monday to finalise the reappointment decision.

# Great storms looming

(54)

**A** CLOSER READING of events in the tertiary sector reveals that 1998 promises to be a year of great storms. Emerging is a picture of an unprecedented and unanimous commitment by university administrations to address the crippling student debt decisively, a debt which threatens to render some institutions unworkable.

On the opposing side is a growing and impatient student body that will not allow itself to be deprived of life's opportunities that access to higher education makes possible.

Given the melodramatic and sometimes explosive nature of student protest, it could be expected that national attention is likely to be focused on the ensuing confrontation.

While this is going on, another process with far-reaching consequences will be unfolding, notably the appointment of persons to a Council on Higher Education (CHE).

The CHE will be an important statutory body which provides independent and strategic advice to the Minister of Education on matters relating to the governance and transformation of higher education. It will enable the reform of governing structures of higher education institutions and also provide opportunities for historically marginalised constituencies to express and negotiate their concerns on higher education transformation.

The inclusion of organised labour, student bodies and national bodies representing academic and non-academic staff is a shift from the past, where this privilege was the preserve of national bodies representing university and technikon principals.

In appointing members of the CHE, the Minister will be guided by a balance of stakeholder interests and expertise, racial and gender representivity, and attested commitment to the interests of higher education.

## Competing interests

Given the competing interests of various stakeholders, the appointment of members and the subsequent steering of this crucial body of the higher education sector will not be easy.

It is pertinent to mention that unlike other institutions in society, the higher education sector has proved to be reluctant to reflect changes that are taking place in our society.

It has yet to be seen to commit itself to redressing past inequalities and to meeting pressing national needs. It is also the only sector that has failed to acknowledge its role and collusion in perpetuating the interests and logic of apartheid colonialism.

Whereas structures representing the church, media, business, judiciary, police, army and security forces have acknowledged their role in the perpetuation of racist policies, the higher educa-

The appointment of people to the Council on Higher Education should not be at the discretion of the Education Minister alone. **Sipho Seepe** explains...

*Sawetan 16/2/98*



**Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu.**

tion sector represented by the largely white Committee of University Principals has seemingly remained aloof to the whole truth and reconciliation process.

Unlike the appointment of the judges of the Constitutional Court, which involved public hearings, appointment to the CHE is left to the discretion of the minister.

Unless black people lobby vociferously to place the right candidates at the helm of this body, we might end up with a composition similar to that of the National Commission of Higher Education, in which blacks were under-represented.

Given the high stakes, we need to reflect on the profile and competencies of the persons to lead the Council.

Certain requirements immediately suggest themselves: the candidates must have a deep knowledge and understanding of higher education and a proven record of excellent scholarship.

But for a country going through a transition, with a painful history of racial and gender domination, these requirements are inadequate. The CHE should be served by persons endowed with vision and commitment to serve the national interests, who are steeped in the fine intricacies of education.

Crucial is the candidates' orientation to justice, redress, transformation, affirmative action and equity. Being black will not suffice.

The history of this country and elsewhere is littered with examples of sections of previously marginalised groups being called on to advance

the interests of their oppressors.

We have individuals who, on ascending positions of power and control of institutions, were unable to disturb the equilibrium – the imbalance – and were safely accommodated by the system without registering even the smallest whimper on the educational Richter scale.

As could be expected, these individuals were immediately validated, authenticated, affirmed and presented to us as models of emulation by the white establishment.

Are there qualified black leaders to fit this tall order of scholarship, vision and leadership? The answer is a resounding yes.

The likes of William Makgoba, Cecil Abrahams, Itumeleng Mosala and Gessler Nkondo immediately comes to mind. They have in their varied ways proved courageous to assume frontline responsibility when called upon.

## Transformation discourse

Makgoba is no stranger to the transformation discourse. A distinguished scholar of international repute, he remains without doubt one of the most eloquent spokesmen of transformation in our time.

Nkondo, the author of the landmark book *Turfloop Testimony: The Dilemma of a Black University in South Africa* has a wealth of experience in advocacy for the genuine transformation of higher education.

Both he and Abrahams have contributed to national debates on transformation. Their local and international experience can only enhance and enrich the council's deliberations.

They have initiated the most difficult process of transforming our curricula and placing curricula debates at the centre of transformation.

Mosala, a highly acclaimed theologian, with a wealth of international experience in education and the politics of education, needs no introduction.

His experience as chief director of higher education in the Ministry of Education will be a bonus for the council.

Undoubtedly these candidates, with their proven track records of expertise, dedication and courage, will be able to steer the higher education sector away from turbulence.

*(Professor Seepe is the head of the department of maths and science education at the University of Venda, Thohoyandou.)*



# Repay your loans so others may learn – appeal

(54) Star 16/2/98

By HOPEWELL RADEBE  
Political Reporter

The ANC Youth League has called on graduates who owe on their study loans to repay the state in order to give other disadvantaged students the opportunity to learn.

Addressing a media conference in Johannesburg yesterday, ANCYL deputy president Andrew Dipela said methods of recovering debts from graduates who were not repaying their study loans were totally inadequate, and culprits were not being punished.

Dipela said the Government needed to create a strategy to recover debts by involving student organisations and youth political

structures in tracing those who had either changed their addresses or who were simply ignoring pleas to pay back their loans.

"If graduates were sincere and patriotic citizens, they could significantly alleviate financial problems facing institutions of learning by paying.

"It is not fair to expect the Government to keep pumping funds into education and then people don't repay loans for the benefit of other disadvantaged students," Dipela said.

ANCYL secretary-general Febe Potgieter said they would be calling for a national forum on education to discuss education's financial crisis and how debts could be recovered.

She suggested that the process of transforming the office of the Receiver of Revenue could include looking into how graduates with study loans could be taxed to help the state recover the money.

"We are opposed to the idea of writing off student debt. We believe the problem should be thoroughly discussed, otherwise the country is bound to experience the recurrence of disruptions for the first two months of every academic year," Potgieter said.

ANCYL president Malusi Gigaba said about 1 600 delegates from ANCYL structures and another 100 delegates from the tripartite alliance organisations will gather for the ANCYL conference in Johannesburg between March 19 and March 22.

A  
E  
t  
h  
a  
h  
N  
fe  
(  
W  
cl  
R  
D

LOW STATEMENTS

Six months ended	Six months ended	Year ended
31.12.97	31.12.96	30.06.97
R'000	R'000	R'000

9 478	16 764	22 695
30 564	32 912	60 206
(16 264)	(9 577)	(26 559)
14 300	23 335	33 647
(6 300)	(4 843)	(8 075)
1 478	(1 193)	(1 404)
-	(535)	(1 473)
(33 263)	(54 498)	(73 974)
(33 263)	(23 721)	(36 906)
-	(30 777)	(37 068)
7 110	39 554	60 637
-	30 777	30 014
7 110	8 777	30 623
(16 675)	1 820	9 358
20 978	11 620	11 620
4 303	13 440	20 978

Expenditure is envisaged for the year and debt should be at lower levels. Capital expenditure for the year will not be material and will reduce debt to more acceptable levels.

Structure is in good condition and all completed. Significant emphasis has been placed on reduction throughout the group, the results to be seen in the future.

Results at the Barracuda Tile Factory have improved profitability. New materials will assist with cost reduction as well as the range of tile products.

Crises in the Far East has placed the economies concerned should be a major concern, which may result in improved results.

Focus on improving group liquidity, to improve share price, the board has resolved not to declare an interim dividend.

Director)

Verth.

# Sasco plans talks with universities' attorneys

BO 16/2/98  
Jonathan Davis (64)

THE SA Students' Congress (Sasco) plans to meet attorneys representing 21 tertiary education institutions this week to discuss its threat to take them to court over their alleged breach of students' constitutional right to fair administrative action.

Sasco's legal representative, Brian Curren, said on Friday that he had been contacted by attorneys appointed by the SA Council of Vice-Chancellors after Sasco sent letters threatening legal action to universities and technikons.

The letters threatened action if the institutions did not suspend what Sasco said were new admission criteria which excluded students who could not pay outstanding fees. The institutions were given two days to respond.

Curren said Sasco had also received individual responses from 11 universities and about 80% of the technikons contacted. This showed the institutions "willingness to try and solve any conflict that may exist amicably through a process of negotiation". Curren said Sasco hoped to start negotiations with the attorneys this week.

Sasco president Jacob Mamabolo said: "We are impressed by the progress made. At last space for negotiation has been created." The ultimatum had forced several universities to back off from their "pay up or shut out policies", he said.

Sasco alleges that some tertiary institutions violated students' right to fair administrative action by changing their admission criteria without giving the six months notice required by the constitution.

Meanwhile, five University of Durban-Westville students have ended their hunger strike, held in protest against the university's unwillingness to readmit failing students with outstanding fees, after their suspensions were lifted. They were suspended for occupying the vice-chancellor's offices.

# Student debt crisis negotiations begin

Jonathan Davis

(54) 2017/2/198

TALKS aimed at resolving the student debt crisis began in Pretoria yesterday between attorneys representing the SA Students' Congress (Sasco) and the Committee of University Principals.

Sasco secretary-general Tsh. R. Ratshitanga said the two sides were discussing terms for further negotiations. "It is necessary to create a climate in which negotiations can take place," he said.

The committee appointed attorneys to represent the 21 universities last week after Sasco sent letters threatening legal action against tertiary institutions. Sasco claims some tertiary institutions have

unilaterally introduced new admission criteria, violating students' constitutional right to fair administrative action.

University of the Witwatersrand vice-chancellor Prof Colin Bundy said the committee wished to make a single, "sector-wide" response to Sasco's challenge.

He said the university had, therefore, agreed to back the committee's move to appoint attorneys to negotiate with Sasco, even though "the concerns about unilateral changes in policy do not apply to us".

Bundy described the funding crisis as "a mismatch between an imperative for wider access and the ability of black families to pay" and said the problem could be solved only by talks at national level.

ANALYSIS

# Authorities hard pressed to finance tertiary studies

## Are poor students a poor risk or a necessary investment? Finding a permanent solution to SA's student debt problem will require some innovative thinking, reports Jonathan Davis

(54) BD 17/2/98

SA's tertiary education system is living beyond its means and has been doing so for some time.

Many hard-pressed universities, technicians and training colleges have been funding the continuing education of many disadvantaged from a growing pool of student debt. Sooner or later, someone is going to have to pick up the tab.

Student debt has reached the extent that, according to an education department document, it now threatens the existence of many tertiary institutions.

This year for the first time, the institutions have come out fighting, vowing to face the student organisations and not readmit students who owe outstanding tuition fees.

However the historically disadvantaged institutions are owed so much money they lack the financial muscle to back their threat. The figures make this clear: the University of the Western Cape is owed R49m by 7 000 students — half of its total student enrolment — and the University of the North must recover R83m from a total student body of about 11 000. The University of the North, the University of Durban-Westville and the University of the Western Cape have agreed to readmit students who can pay a portion of the fees they owe, and similar agreements seem unavoidable at the universities of the Western Cape and Zululand.

The historically white universities are not as dependent on government subsidies and have been able to keep stricter readmission policies in place for some time. No one doubts, however, that present provisions for financial aid to disadvantaged students are inadequate. "We cannot allow poverty to become a barrier to university access," says University of Cape Town communications officer

Helen Zille. "Either you leave highly talented students out of university, or you find a way to help competent students to attend. These are your choices."

University of Natal vice-chancellor Brenda Gourley backs her institution's tough fees and admissions policy, but sympathises with what she describes as students' misconceptions about state funding for university study. She points out such funding is a well-established concept in many countries including the UK, Germany, New Zealand and Australia.

Nevertheless, the state has instead chosen to focus its efforts on basic education. "Further education is not a right," says education ministry spokesman Bheki Khumalo. "Students have to pay fees. There will be no bailout."

Thami Mseleko, an adviser to education minister Sibusiso Bengu, says: "The question of managing student debt is not a government matter. We have done what we do every year. We have pushed and fought for more money. We have done all we can."

In the absence of comprehensive state funding of tertiary education for the foreseeable future, and no lifeline likely for troubled institutions or indebted students, the only solution is to find innovative ways of lending money to students, and of getting it back.

"There is a myth that poor people who take loans do not pay debt," says Zille, explaining how the University of Cape Town has for more than a decade stood surety for bank loans for certain carefully selected needy students who

would not on their own qualify for loans, as part of its financial aid programme. We have a good repayment rate, and we pursue students who default. We do not have bad debts," she says.

The plan seems to work, Zille claims, because Cape Town graduates are sought after, find jobs soon and are able to pay off their loans soon after leaving university, and because the university is prepared to do the leg work in chasing up those who do not pay.

It is not clear how successful the plan will be over time, but, as Zille points out, it has succeeded in extending university education to a large number of people who ordinarily would not have had access. And it challenges the perception of poor people, and poor students in particular, as irredeemably bad credit risks.

"We are in this area because it is the only way to give competent and bright students the opportunity of university education. We are not a bank. We should not be involved in chasing students for debts. If there was a proper scheme in place, we would not have to be. This is a holding operation, but it is successful."

The closest SA has to a proper scheme at present is the Tertiary Education Fund of SA (Tefsa). The body has been granting loans to disadvantaged students since 1991, but significantly more since 1993, when it was made part of government's National Students' Financial Aid Scheme.

Tefsa receives most of its income as an annual grant from government. It also distributes and administers loans to needy students on behalf of nearly all major universities, and is allocated substantial funds by these institu-

tions to do this.

Last year, the education department asked for R400m from central government for the fund. Government has allocated R337m and hopes foreign donors will contribute the difference. Compared with the R131,5m government gave in 1993, and R22,5m in 1991, the amount presents a massive increase, but it is still not enough.

"The capitalisation is not what we need, but it could be worse," says Tefsa CEO Roy Jackson. He believes the unique way in which the fund structured its long-term low-interest loan system will ensure a good repayment rate.

Repayment on the fund's loans start only once the recipient starts work. That means repayments have yet to start on 90% of the fund's loans granted since 1993. Nevertheless, Jackson says while the fund expected to recover R21,4m from loans granted in 1991, loan recipients had already repaid R29,5m. "I think systems like this work because of carrots and sticks," he says.

Recipients begin repayments at low interest once they find employment and reach a certain salary level. If the recipient defaults on payments, the fund has the legal "teeth" to recover the money owed from the recipient's employer. However, Jackson says the fund has found students tend to want to repay loans quickly.

The fund also operates a "retrospective bursary" system where students achieving good results were able to convert part of their loan debt into a bursary. Jackson says this had encouraged students to achieve better results. "Every new national scheme will now have this retrospective feature," Jackson predicts that all

institutions will hand over the financial aid commitments to Tefsa. "Our systems are good. What we are asking for, they have got."

Tefsa receives substantial backing in a report on funding needy students in SA compiled by a group of researchers at the University of Cape Town, and not considered by the minister. The report suggests Tefsa uses to administer the National Student Financial Assistance Scheme, and that its structure be reviewed "without compromising its organisational efficiency."

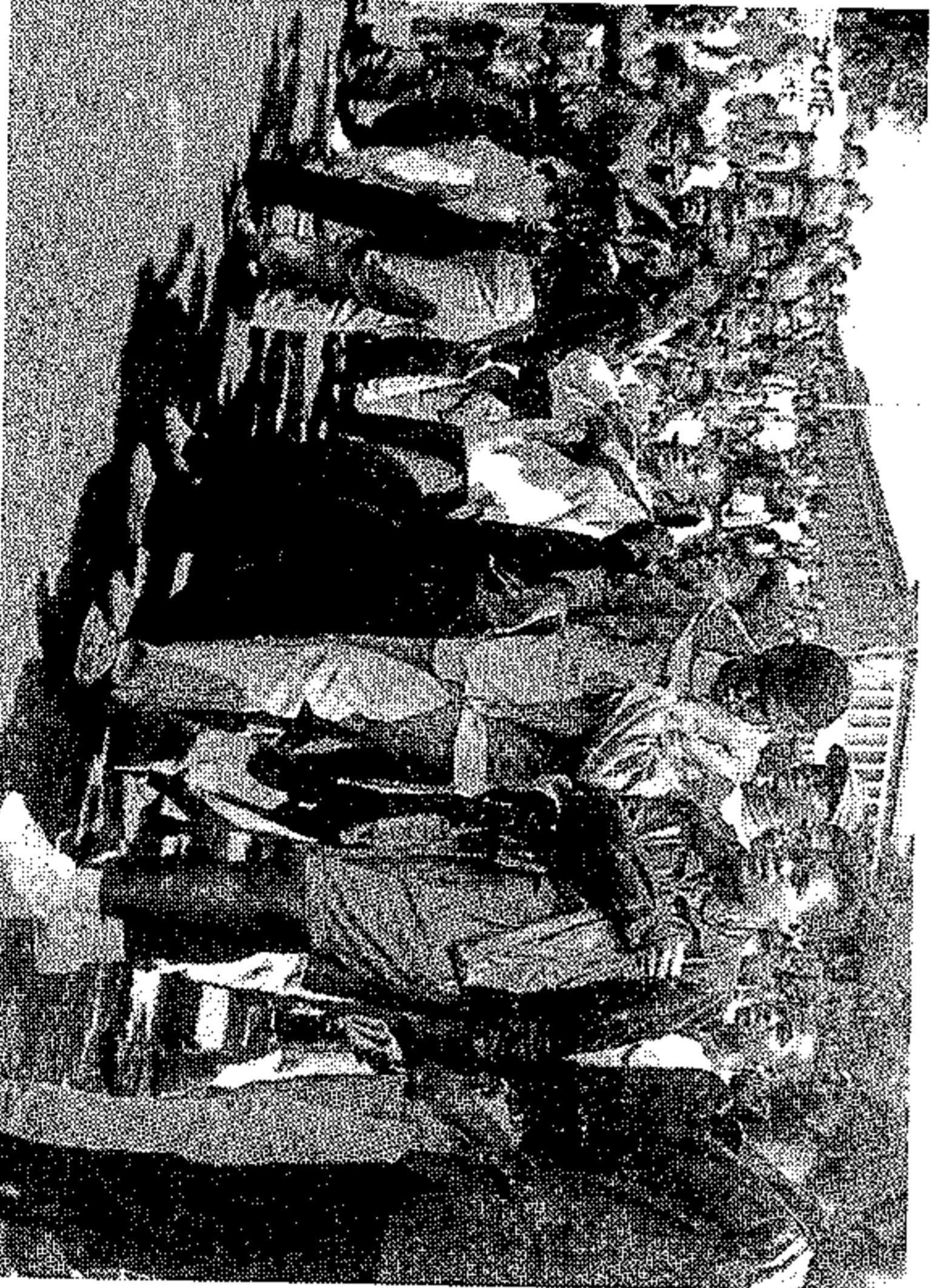
The report backs Tefsa's retrospective bursaries and also suggests that Tefsa's means test for financial aid be adopted by all institutions and that a higher interest rate be charged.

Jackson hopes the fund will now receive the full backing of foreign donors and the local private sector. However, he doubts that Tefsa could ever be capitalised to the extent that it became a self-sustaining revolving fund for readmitting students who owe readmission loans. "There will always be a need to be capital injection."

Jackson said local companies were starting to show an interest in the fund and he suggested that tax breaks should be considered for large donations.

Prof Stuart Sanderson, one of the report's authors and a former vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, said: "What is needed is a policy adopted by government which allows for a sustainable, long-term financial aid system, as opposed to the present ad hoc financial allocations."

The report points out that because of the legacy of apartheid education system, the students needing financial aid for tertiary education over the next few years will overwhelmingly be black. Failing to help these students will amount to a perpetuation of inequality and elitism in education.



Student debt at many of SA's universities has led to mass protests over exclusions. Picture: TREVOR SAMPSON

# Student registration muddle hits UWC

ANDREA BOTHA  
STAFF REPORTER

ART 17/2/98

(54)

**Students say they have suspended registration indefinitely at the University of the Western Cape, pending further talks between their representatives and the administration today.**

Registration for first-years was to take place yesterday and had just started when the Student Representative Council stepped in.

The SRC was unhappy about the university's policy for entrance requirements at residences.

But a university spokesman today denied that registration had been suspended. He said registration was going ahead as planned and it was not up to the students to suspend or cancel registration.

If a group of people did not want to register, that was their individual choice, but as far as the university is concerned, registration was going ahead, he said.

Angry students gathered in the canteen yesterday while the SRC met the university administration to discuss the crisis.

The SRC later addressed students

and heated discussions were held on the agreement reached between university administrators and student representatives last week on the payment of student debt.

The agreement says students must pay a percentage of their outstanding fees so that the university can start recouping the R49-million it is owed.

Students who are unable to make the stipulated minimum contributions will be allowed to pay what they can.

But this "landmark agreement" was at the centre of the row yesterday and students have accused the administration of not sticking to it.

"The suspension of registration was caused by the university causing confusion and frustration," said SRC spokesman Thabo Masumbuka.

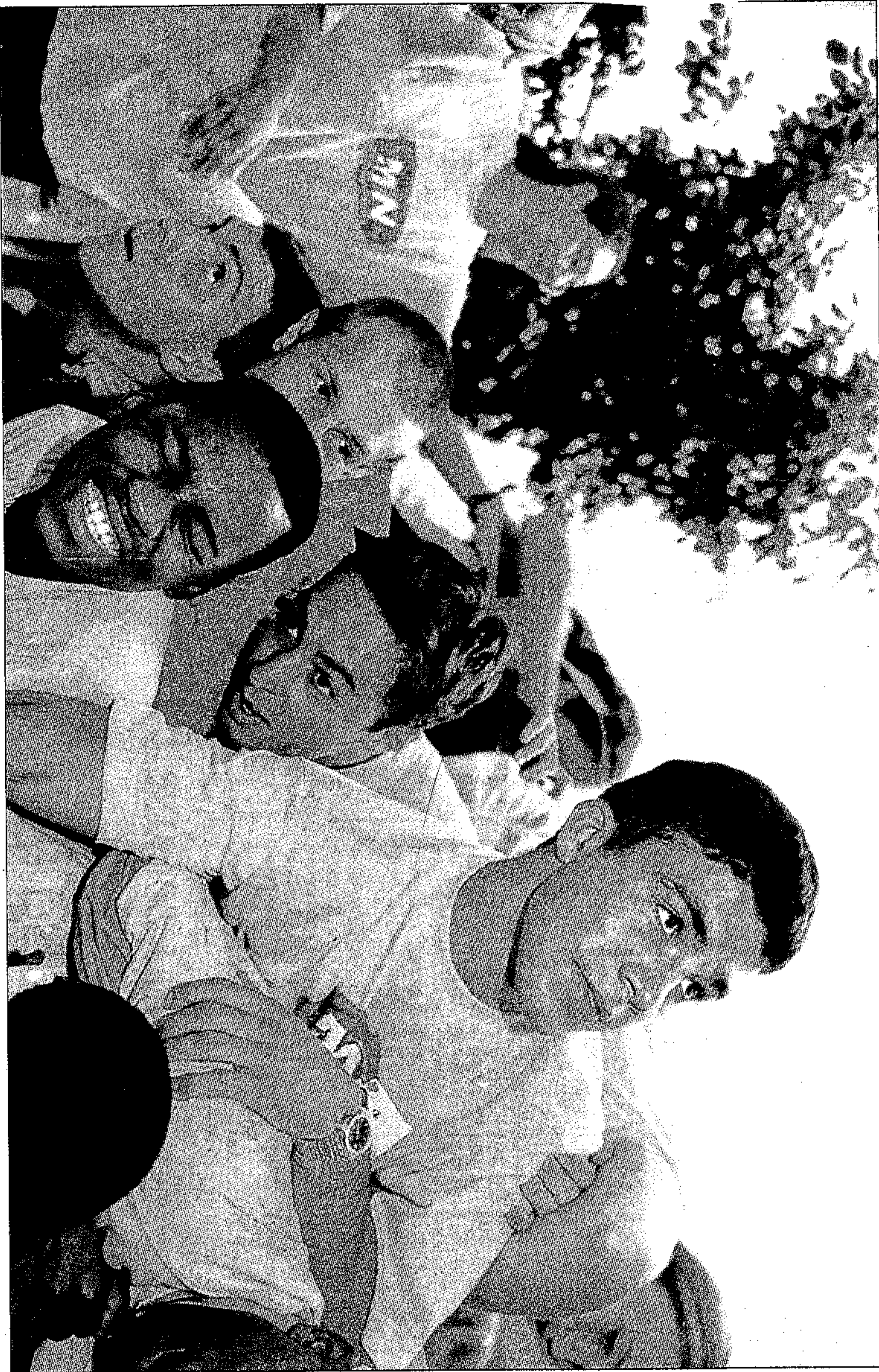
Students are especially unhappy about a clause in the agreement they must pay 40% of their outstanding fees before being allowed to register.

A meeting is scheduled for students today to discuss registration.

Mr Masumbuka indicated that a meeting between the student body and the university's administrators would also be held today.

**PILING IT ON**

THYS DULLART



Mountain of men ... students from Rand Afrikaans University formed a 35-man human pyramid in Johannesburg this week, winning second place in a national campus competition sponsored by MTN to build the biggest human pyramid. First was the University of Port Elizabeth, with a 39-man pyramid.

Star 19/2/98 (54)

# Little upstarts are playing power games with teenagers' futures

(54) BD 19/2/98

Black students are the main victims of disruptive campaigns waged by a plethora of student and teacher unions, writes **Thami Mazwai**

WHAT sin has SA committed to deserve an SA Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu), a Congress of SA Students (Cosas), an SA Students' Congress (Sasco) or a Pan Africanist Students' Organisation (Paso)? Indeed, it must be a grievous sin for the Almighty to strike us with this blight of organisations whose joint objective is to smash our children's futures.

The year is hardly two months old and there have been disruptions at the universities of Fort Hare, Durban-Westville and the Western Cape. Sadtu is threatening to embark on strikes while just two weeks ago thousands of children from primary and secondary schools marched in Johannesburg instead of being in class. The miscreants who masquerade as leaders say this march was necessary for children to get textbooks, that teachers must strike because of retrenchments and that disruptions at universities are in the name of admitting poor students.

These leaders do not seem to realise that their complaints are a few of the many problems that plague education. The big picture is that education is in the throes of transformation and it is still going to be tough. We still have officials from the old order who sabotage new ideas, do not implement new policies or resist the new senior black officials. We still have white South Africans who do not want their children in the same class as blacks; we have black teachers who through no fault of theirs are not fit to teach anybody.

Of late, black students have

said poor students must be admitted to universities; in other words they want free tertiary education. This demand looks reasonable, but ag please tog, is this really possible? Does it not mean that if government provides free tertiary education, then health, welfare, housing or entrepreneurial development will suffer?

When we decry nondelivery in education, have we forgotten that the system we inherited catered for the provision of good education only to whites. If all South Africans must be educated, the logical thing is first to uproot the racially stratified system and replace it with a new one conforming to our ideals.

Another problem facing us is that while education must be transformed at all costs, we do not have the necessary resources. Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu and his team must be given some breathing space.

Hence, I take a dim view of the knee-jerk strategies of black organisations which seem not to realise that the education department has a thankless task and think changes can be steam-rollered through without systems being set up first.

I am aghast at the games being played by Cosas, Sasco, Sadtu and Paso who blatantly put at risk the futures of 10- to 15-year-olds in their nefarious power games.

I wonder who told these little upstarts who, like the ANC Youth League, believe they have the sole right to decide policy for this country of ours.

It was one thing in the '70s and '80s to use these children for the struggle. It could not be helped and was a sacrifice that other nations also paid. However, even if this sacrifice was necessary, one of its unfortunate consequences is that we have an army of uneducated and unskilled graduates from that time, sometimes unfairly called the lost generation, in jobs such as supermarket cashier.

There are tens of thousands in union federations, the Congress of SA Trade Unions and National Council of Trade Unions, who often hold the economy to ransom. They have a case: they sacrificed their futures so all of us could have freedom. Why must they be forgotten? Now we want to increase the number of matric failures and thus multiply this army of uneducated and unskilled people.

Last, what hurts most is that those who suffer each year are blacks. I have not seen, and know I never will see, classes of white, or predominantly white, students being disrupted. Cosas, Paso and Sasco know better than to gamble with the future of "die klein baas en miessies". It is always the black student who is the sacrificial lamb. At traditional white universities, white students are seldom part of Sasco's ill-conceived and misguided campaigns. This brings us to the ultimate question: Are black students so gullible that any half-baked demagogue easily pulls them out of class?

□ Mazwai is managing director of Mafube Publishing.

# Committed to change

*Sowetan 20/2/98*

**T**HE NEW vice chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Colin Bundy, is a man of few words, but one of the words that is foremost in his conversation and to which he is deeply committed is "change".

Change at Wits, change in the country and change in the world. "Change isn't a threat or a danger. It's inability to respond to change that is dangerous," he told *Sowetan* this week.

Acclaimed as a brilliant historian, Bundy sees change at Wits in its broader historical context and would like his term as vice chancellor to be remembered as a time of great changes.

"We are living through a period of change whatever happens. I hope we will look back and see how we adapted and changed successfully."

In a public speech before his selection, Bundy posed the challenge to Wits: "To recognise and understand changes as they occur, to respond effectively to them, and to use them to best advantage. The opportunity for Wits is to manage change, to lead change, in taking action for a better society."

Although he is a middle-aged white man of 53, Bundy has inspired confidence among all stakeholders as the best person to spearhead change at Wits.

## Majority support

He won majority support from the Wits Forum for Further Accelerated and Comprehensive Transformation (FFACT), the Council and Senate to land the job in November.

Only Bundy and a fellow academic from the Western Cape, Professor Francis Wilson, made the shortlist. There were about 12 candidates before shortlisting.

Former deputy vice chancellor Professor William Makgoba did not secure the 50 percent vote required from the senior appointments selection committee to be shortlisted. (All stakeholders at Wits, including academics, students, staff, council members and convocation are represented on the 28-person committee.)

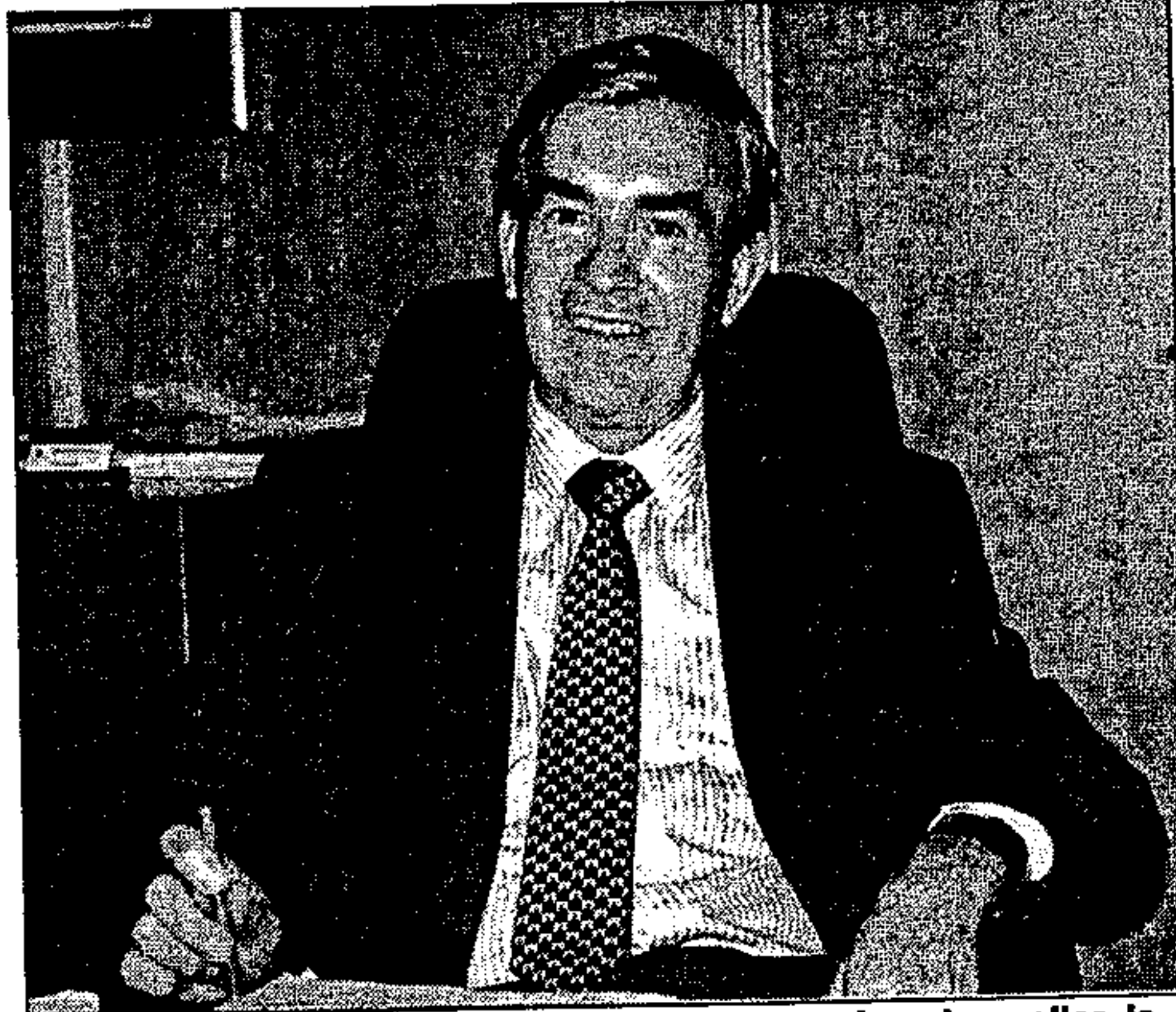
"It was very flattering (to be chosen)," Bundy says. "The post is one of the most challenging jobs in South African education."

Clearly the challenge appealed to him and he has begun responding to it - by consulting and listening to key players. Bundy has already met the Wits student representative council and the Gauteng region of the South African Students Congress (Sasco) for discussions.

"I've tried to meet a lot of people and listen to them. I've walked around campus. I will try to make the executive staff more accessible. I want people to feel at home," he says.

"Transformation issues are not solved through confrontation - they are only solved through institutional will. The wellbeing of the

Professor Colin Bundy has no illusions about the difficulties of transformation at Wits, but he believes in change. **Claire Keeton** spoke to him. (54)



**Professor Colin Bundy, Wits University's new vice chancellor, is deeply committed to change.**

PIC: CLAIRE KEETON

academic staff, workers and students all depend on Wits being an excellent university.

"Wits is in transition and we are defining our own agenda. The real approach is one of collectivity. I want to build a sense of collective purpose and unite stakeholders."

Bundy admits that there are several areas of conflict inherent in the way the university works, but he suspects that "people think they are more deeply divided than they are". He intends to search for the common ground among stakeholders and build on it.

## Strategic planning

"We are engaged in strategic planning and need to set priorities. We need to concentrate on consensus building, which starts with the mission statement. We plan to be finished with this by the end of the year."

He is positive about the direction in Wits has shifted in the 1990s and says the intake of first year students this year corresponds very closely to the demographic profile of Gauteng matric exemptions.

"It's wonderful how the student composition has changed. We are not only talking about redress and social justice. It is also the most effective way to tap the intelligence and creativ-

ity of all young people," he says.

His vision of effecting change and tapping resources reaches beyond Wits to cooperation with other tertiary institutions. Bundy is keen to forge relationships with other universities in metropolitan Johannesburg and Gauteng, though it is a complicated process.

He anticipates the type of cooperation that exists in the Western Cape, for example between the University of the Western Cape (where he served as vice-rector from 1994 to 1997) and the University of Cape Town, which

offer a joint diploma.

Bundy was also joint chairman of history at the two universities from 1987-1990.

His view of tertiary funding problems extends beyond individual campuses as well. "It will not be solved at campus level. Access is a problem at every campus. The whole question of access and debt involves multiple responsibilities.

"The universities are responsible for broader access. Students are responsible for repaying their loans. Families need to pay what they can afford."

"Corporates must be responsible for investing in higher education and the Government must be responsible for financing and administering a satisfactory scheme."

Bundy welcomed the contribution of the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa, which made around half a billion rand available to students last year.

He believes that the Government is committed to developing a stable scheme, which will be able to predict and meet the needs of students.

For Bundy it will take more than sums to make the new equation of equity and excellence balance for Wits students. But if anyone is qualified, having both an historical and progressive perspective of the world, he is.

nr  
1  
nr  
3r  
d  
of  
of



## Varsity seeks interdict after closure

Alice – The University of Fort Hare is seeking an urgent court order to evict students from its campus following the closure of the university yesterday, registrar Dr Isaack Mabindisa said.

This followed the refusal of some students to leave the campus as they said they saw no reason for the management to close the university. Mabindisa said the university was being closed to give management some "breathing space".

He said he had instructed students to vacate their rooms and take all their belongings with them. The closure was forced by intimidation of fee-paying and registered students by non-registered students, the burning and

plundering of university property, persistent unlawful occupation of residences by unregistered students, and refusal of many students to abide by university council resolutions.

"We regret the inconvenience to the parents, guardians, sponsors and students who have met all requirements for registration," Mabindisa said.

He reaffirmed the university's commitment to the protection of the rights of registered students.

At the beginning of this year the university council said students should pay 25% of their fees, and those in arrears 100% of their 1997 debt.

These requirements were rejected by the SRC. – Own Correspondent

(54)

Spaw 20/2/98

# Fort Hare granted court order to evict students

(154)

ARG 20/2/98  
Bisho - Management at the University of Fort Hare obtained a court order here last night to evict students from the campus.

This comes after a student demonstration on campus in response to an announcement by university management that the university would be closed indefinitely.

Students were told to evacuate the premises by 4pm yesterday, but many refused to leave because they felt there was not enough time to do so.

University registrar Dr Isaac Mabindisa said in a statement the decision to close the university came after non-registered students had been intimidating fee-paying and registered students.

He said there had been a complete disruption of academic activities and persistent unlawful occupation of residences by unregistered students.

Dr Mabindisa said the refusal of many students to abide by the university council resolutions on fee

payment had exacerbated the institution's financial crisis.

Yesterday, Public Order Police Services (Pops) had to be called in to monitor the situation.

Pops operation commander at Fort Hare, Captain Emile le Grange said today: "It is quiet at the moment and some students are moving out. We will have to see what the reaction is later when the sheriff of the court reads out the court order."

Captain Le Grange said that registered and non-registered students alike would have to evacuate university premises.

Dr Mabindisa said today he wanted to reaffirm the university's commitment to the protection of the rights of registered students to attend lectures without fear of disruption or intimidation by spoilers.

The decision to close the university had the support of Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu and lost time would be made up during the year. A date for reopening the university would be announced later. - ECN



Cartoonist's eye-view: how Don Fedlar of The Star saw the recent showdown at the University of the Western Cape during which students clashed with university authorities over the crisis regarding the non-payment of fees

Last week in Saturday Argus Anthony Holiday of the University of the Western Cape argued that the former 'disadvantaged' universities were mostly still 'bush colleges'. Colin Johnson, acting vice-rector at UWC, responds

# Promoting excellence still most important task of our universities

ARG 21/2/98

(54)

All South Africa universities are precious assets: we cannot waste them, we dare not debase them.

As we look into the future, particularly in a world obsessed with the idea that market-driven efficiencies should determine public policy, the universities know that the change which is now upon us will not be the last.

It is salutary to remember, however, that universities have been through faddish moments in public affairs before: fortunately they survived.

All South Africa's universities are dedicated to academic excellence and its development: to believe otherwise is sheer nonsense.

At UWC our concern is palpable. For instance, we have doubled the number of PhDs teaching in our Science Faculty in the past five years; this increase has been emulated throughout the university; accredited academic publications throughout the university have quadrupled since 1990; a nation-wide survey ranked UWC's publications in the humanities as fifth in the country; the number of rated natural scientists on our staff has increased from six to 32,

including three with a B-rating and two Presidential Awards.

Things are happening elsewhere on this campus. Two of our professors recently shared an award for public history research; and our Women's Studies Research and Education projects have just won two out of four awards from the Centre for Science Development in a competition in which there were 48 competitors.

These jottings confirm that there is research under way at institutions which have been disadvantaged by their traditional positioning in South African society. There is no escaping this history. This has been the experience of these institutions, and no appeals to the politics of cost-efficiency can change this from fact to fiction.

There is no point in dwelling on this, however - just as there seems no point in endlessly situating the pools of intellectual excellence at both UCT and Stellenbosch in the fact that they were privileged by public policies of the old South Africa which favoured institutions which were respectively white and Afrikaner.

Our educative mission is clear. We must bring to the business of academia a judicious mix of teaching and

research.

Following the old Humboldt principle, neither one, nor the other, must gain ascendancy. To change this, as some clearly think we should, would be to violate not only our integrity as scholars, but our responsibilities to the public and its purse.

We must, however, accept that our

**'These jottings confirm that there is research underway at institutions'**

calling lies not with those in power but with the people we serve: the communities from which we come and which, for decades now, have sustained us. Not only does this directly account for the severe financial constraints we face, but it also explains the critical stance which UWC has taken towards the exercise of power.

The severity of the financial trap which this and other universities face cannot be divorced from the condi-

tions in the communities around us; nor, indeed, can it be separated from our core business - producing South Africans who can carry the country into the 21st Century.

In these circumstances, to look longingly at the saintly spires suggested by the self-styled excellence in foreign universities is senseless. We have engaged with the world and, in our own quiet way, have conquered it.

Last year, for instance, six molecular biology students from UWC were accepted for doctoral study on open scholarships to Oxford, Cambridge and London. This month, one of our professors co-edited the flagship British journal in international studies. My own post-doctoral work was done at Harvard.

But the point is not to display a string of academic trophies: it is only to emphasise that our place is here. We must manufacture academic excellence from what is around us.

There is no other set of institutions in this (or any other) country which is more cognisant of the need to reach forward than are the universities. The nervous first-year students of today will be making policy decisions in the middle of the next

century.

To suggest that they will take with them anything else but the best we can offer is, quite frankly, not only absurd but simply insulting to the fine professionals at this, and all South African universities.

These are not easy times for higher education.

At the very moment when almost every official who now occupies public office is benefiting from a university education which was paid for by the public purse - churches, foreign governments, foundations and the like - we are being asked, by those same officials, to draw money from desperately poor communities who only want their children to serve this country beyond the year 2000.

In these trying circumstances, there is no point in asking for further hierarchies, or using the gutter language which perpetuates the country's many divides, or subjectively saying "this is excellent - that is not".

Universities are timeless, to be sure. But their most important function in an age of reason, as the educator Allan Bloom reminded us in the mid-1980s, is to protect reason from itself.

# Varsities flex muscle <sup>(54)</sup>

## Gates shut for defaulting, violent students

By HANGWANI MULAUDZI and Sapa

THE FEES war raging at two universities boiled over this week with management at Fort Hare (Eastern Cape) and the University of Venda (Northern Province) taking a hard-line stance and shutting the gates.

Students were thrown off campus in accordance with court orders barring them from entering the campuses or going within 100 m without written permission of management.

Fort Hare campus in Alice was all but deserted on Friday night as hundreds of students adhered to the court order.

Bisho High Court Judge Tshabalala issued the order after some students refused to leave the campus after management closed it on Thursday.

The university was closed indefinitely after unregistered students became violent and intimidated paid-up, registered students.

They also burnt and plundered property, refusing to abide by university council resolutions on admission and payment of fees.

Judge Tshabalala ruled that the student leadership should pay the costs of the application, and that they should show cause on March 12 why the order should not be made final.

He also authorised the deputy

sheriff, with the assistance of the police, to remove students who refused to comply.

Fort Hare Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mbulelo Mazamane, said on Friday it would take at least a week to review developments before considering reopening.

He said the decision to close the university was inevitable as unregistered students had adopted intimidatory and violent tactics to force the university to enrol them.

The university would offer assistance to foreign students and other registered students stranded because of the closure.

But some students had vowed to continue through peaceful means to get management to open negotiations on the fees issue, said students' representative council president Thembekile Bonakele.

He said they could not give up the struggle when most students remained unregistered.

"We are consulting our lawyers on the possibility of taking legal action," he said.

He said students would remain in the Alice area as they had secured accommodation from local church groups and in town hall.

Students owe the university R26 million in fees. Since the stringent new admission conditions were introduced, more than R4 million has been collected.

On registration, students have to pay 25 percent of fees up-front and any outstanding debts to the university have to be paid in full.

The requirements were rejected by the SRC, which called for further negotiations on the matter.

Mzamane apologised to the chairman of the parliamentary education portfolio committee, Dr Blade Nzimande, for the embarrassment caused by the developments at the institution.

Nzimande was on campus for the inauguration of the southern Africa chapter of the African Association of Political Science.

Mzamane said the disturbances may have been deliberately timed to coincide with Nzimande's visit, thus casting the university in a bad light.

Nzimande said he had "felt snubbed" by the closure in his presence and disapproved of the action taken by management.

He said the problems were not "insurmountable".

Univen closed its gates on Thursday as students, led by the Azapo-aligned SRC, went on the rampage, damaging and looting the campus in protest against the university's fee increase of 13,9 percent, and its refusal to ignore a court order and readmit a student, Elijah Tsedu.

In a statement released on Friday by Univen Vice-Chancellor

Professor Gessler Nkondo, students were ordered to vacate their rooms by 4 pm.

All the functions of the SRC have been suspended and Nkondo has warned that any students trying to enter the campus will be arrested for trespassing.

Students are also demanding the university release results of students who still owe fees.

SRC president Mashudu Mudau said this week that students had resolved to "force" Nkondo to resign because management had rejected demands to change its position on the fee increase and the expulsion of Tsedu.

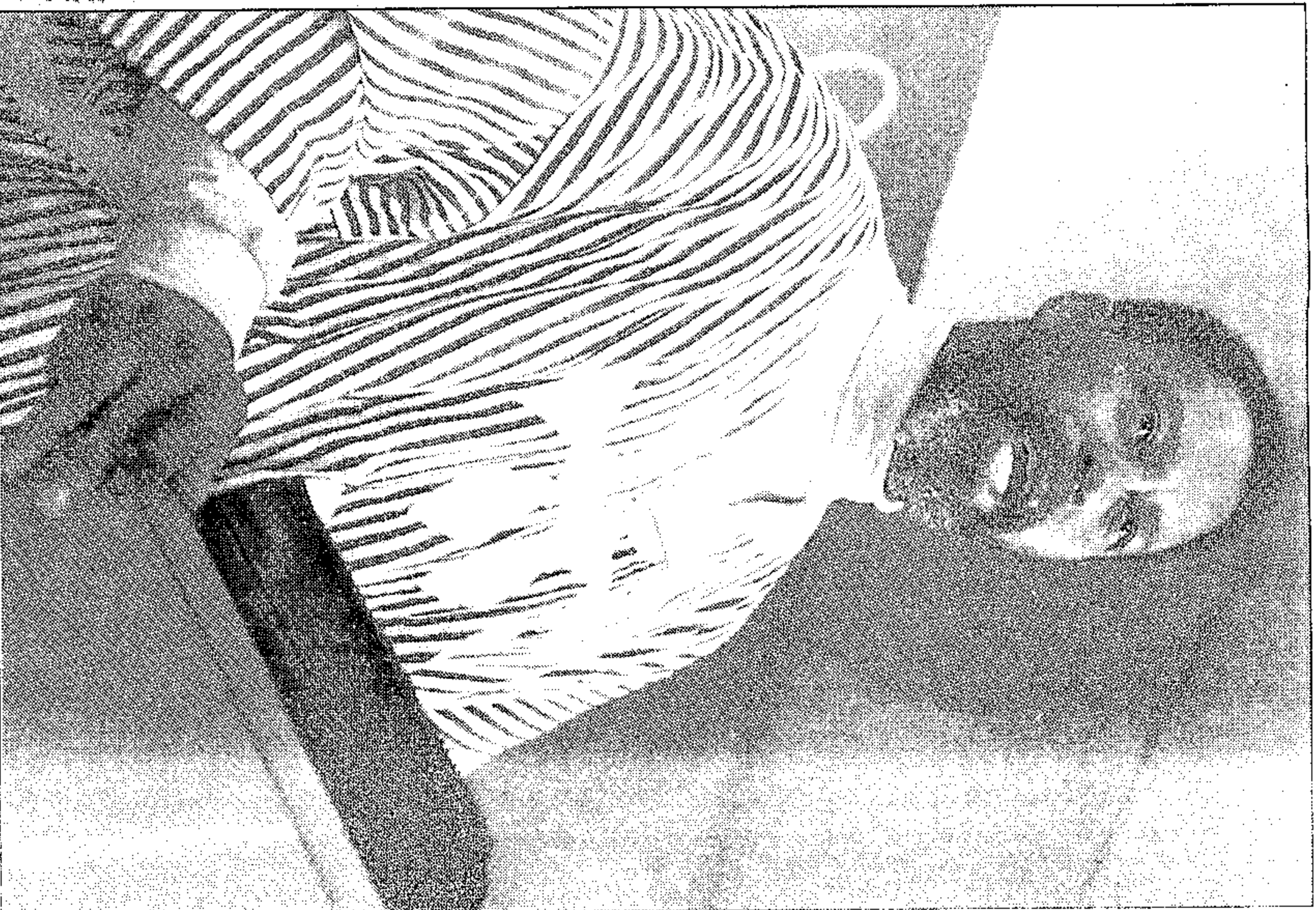
In an open letter to the university community, Nkondo remained adamant that the students' demands were non-negotiable.

He said the university was owed about R6,6 million by students and demands by the SRC to roll-over the outstanding amount to 1998 would only increase their debts.

"The university will not allow unregistered students to disrupt the normal functioning of the university," he said.

Those who failed to use their bursary allocations would have to forsake them.

A senior lecturer who asked to remain anonymous said it was a matter of concern that valuable time was being wasted, and this would adversely affect students.



GETTING TOUGH... Fort Hare Vice-Chancellor Professor Mbulelo Mazamane

# From broeders to bra's: RAU faces the new challenge

(54) CP 22/2/98

IT WAS the university that was started by the Broederbond to give the Afrikaner a footing in the heart of Johannesburg. The renowned Piet Meyer was the first chancellor, Gerrit Viljoen the first rector. Both of them former chairmen of the Broederbond.

They wanted to make RAU a university for Afrikaners. For young broeders (brothers).

This week I walked around its campus. Two black students met up on the way to class, greeting one another with a "Hey, brother!" The brothers, it seems, are still at RAU.

History seems to be repeating itself. RAU is again reaching out its hands to Johannesburg's "left-behinds": no longer Afrikaners in an academic no-mans land, but black students looking for a stable university.

Prof J C van der Walt, rector, looked unperturbed on Thursday afternoon in the face of the campus unrest that RAU experienced this week. The "fighting" must be seen in context, he said.

*But isn't it the start of largescale campus unrest at RAU?*

"No, I think the case is being exaggerated. We believe the unrest was Rag-related. A high-level committee is going to review the whole traditional phenomenon of Rag. I don't want to spoil students' fun, but we can't take risks during a sensitive time."

*Does racism come up here often?*

"We are succeeding in keeping racism out of our policy and practice. But one always gets the situation of individuals and groups who fuel their programs with ideology and racism."

"Things are bad at the moment in South Africa: race and ideology still play too great a role in a so-called non-racial democracy."

Even legislation, like that on labour, is not driven by basic labour, legalities and economic principles, but by ideology and politics. A shining example is the Law on Equal Employment Intake which is meant to be in the interests of the economy. But I am convinced that if

it were consistently executed, the outcome would be precisely the opposite. It is a piece of legislation that is going to be problematic for the universities and all enterprises in the country."

On the necessity of transformation he is in agreement. But this week, one of the protesters, a RAU student named Malcolm X (it says so in his ID book), attacked the university for a lack of transformation. It is clear that transformation does not mean the same thing for the rector and this student.

"I don't want to speak on his behalf," answers the professor. "Even though I have no problem with the concept. It's simply that the university must also include the values of a democracy in its structure and culture."

*This was not the case in the past?*

"Yes, and that's why it must be done now. But racist groups often attach a simple racist meaning to transformation, that there must be a rapid, unrealistic change to the 80/20 recipe of black faces to white ones. Such quick-fix solutions are not feasible, and are in conflict with our starting point of orderly development."

"For me, transformation means especially adapting academic programmes and making place for community development programmes. Of

THE Rand Afrikaans University

is at a crossroads, and RAU's

rector Prof J C van der Walt

(below) tells Hanlie Retief how he

intends to tackle the different

issues regarding transformation

course we must be more representative of the population composition, but this comes second after values such as quality and discipline."

*Have the gates of RAU, always seen as the bastion of Afrikaners, now collapsed? Are the gates now open?*

"If you're asking what has happened to the original ideals of RAU, to building a place here for Afrikaans speakers, then I say those are certainly still alive. We cherish our Afrikaans community which played such an important role in the founding of the university."

*And Afrikaans on the campus?*

We're starting this year with a parallel system for full-time students. Evening classes and RAU college are in demand in English.

"As long as the Afrikaner community supports the university, we'll keep a full lane open for Afrikaans speakers here. In the end decisions won't be made by the university council or the senate, but by the Afrikaner community itself."

*There is talk that RAU intends to change its name shortly, and that the "Afrikaans" will disappear from the title.*

"I don't know where the newspapers get names such as the Rand Academic University or the Rand Africa University. This has never been under discussion here. The name is however, an issue that is being taken up by our broad transformation forum."

"Personally, I feel that the short title of RAU has already made an impact. English speakers even refer to RAU university. But I have more important things to do than to break my head over the name."

*So what do you break your head over at the moment?*

"Among other things, the ever-decreasing state subsidy, keeping facilities and academic programmes up to standard, and expanding them."

*You say there will be no compromising of standards, but how are you going to get around this on lesser state subsidies?*

"We are proud to be the most cost-effective university in the country. We are exceptionally conservative when it comes to financial budgets and management."

"A World Bank report in 1993 says the decline of African universities is partly because there is little control over university acceptance. One cannot allow it to be flooded. Perhaps there is something of this at our black universities currently."

"By far, most black students feel positive about RAU."

"They know that they are getting quality training here, because there is discipline and structure here, and a culture of tolerance."

"To Malcolm X, I want to say: become calm, we will honestly look at your problems. It is a privilege to be able to be here."

In 1999, his contract with RAU expires.

But he first wants to build up RAU to a university which can rank with the best in the world, which still teaches in Afrikaans, and where the Malcolm X's are at home.



# Princess rises to challenge

## Matie maths lecturer aims to change from inside

**CAROL CAMPBELL**

SPECIAL WRITER

A Xhosa princess teaching mathematics to students at an Afrikaans university might sound unlikely but Phethiwe Matutu, daughter of the late Transkei chief Fuhuzima Matutu, is unfazed by the challenge.

Many people have asked her if she is comfortable at Stellenbosch, the university which trained apartheid leaders like John Voster and Hendrik Verwoerd.

"My response is that I believe the best way to change a place is from within," she says.

Already Ms Matutu has completed a two-week crash course in Afrikaans and jokingly greets her Afrikaans colleagues in their own language in the staffroom every morning.

In fact she credits two Afrikaners with giving her opportunities to reach the heights she has in mathematics.

Professor Wesley Kotzé - head of mathematics at Rhodes - encouraged her to study for her honours while

Professor Chris Brink, University of Cape Town's head of maths fostered her doctoral studies.

The opportunity to lecture at Stellenbosch is another stepping stone in a career which is already beginning to dazzle.

"We cannot continue to label all Afrikaners as bad just because of this country's history.

"Yes, Stellenbosch University needs to do a great deal to improve its image in the eyes of the majority of South Africans but we (black people) can start by changing misconceptions," she says.

For example, on a call-in radio programme recently, a DJ asked Ms Matutu if she was literate.

"Does an African accent automatically mean the speaker is illiterate?" We have to change this perception."

Ms Matutu moved to Stellenbosch from UCT last month. She began her working career in Qwaqwa, at the University of the North, after she graduated with a master's degree, cum laude, from Rhodes.

"My dad wanted me to stay at home and finish my studies at the

University of the Transkei but I knew the opportunity Rhodes was offering couldn't be passed over. I went against his wishes which was very difficult but it launched my career."

Her field of research is general topology which has applications in many parts of mathematics and computer science.

At Stellenbosch she will be teaching a first-year course in calculus and hopes to have completed her doctorate, through UCT, by mid-year.

Like the majority of black South Africans Ms Matutu's school education was hampered by teachers who were under-qualified and unable to stretch their bright young pupil's mathematical abilities.

A lucky twist of fate meant that in standard five, six and seven at the Lower Ngqwarwa Junior Secondary School, she had a teacher with matric who loved mathematics. "I can only remember that his name was Mr Magwentshu and he laid the foundations of my mathematics education."

In senior high school her teachers were only too happy to have a pupil who conquered her maths text book

months ahead of the class. "It made them look good," she said.

The middle of the night is her most fruitful working time because she can think without interruption.

"I write everything down when I am consciously constructing or solving a mathematical problem.

"Sometimes it takes days before the problem becomes part of me and it is during this time my subconscious goes to work. To do mathematics well my life has to be balanced. If I have any problems bothering me they have to be sorted out before I can allow my mind to travel into the world of logical reasoning."

She is well aware of the poor state of mathematics education in South Africa's schools. "The key to unlocking education is discipline in the classroom and good, well-trained teachers."

The next few weeks will be a telling time for Ms Matutu at Stellenbosch University.

"So far the people here have gone out of their way to make me feel at home and I am confident I am going to be very happy," she says.



OBEED ZILWA

# Students who (54) *Sowetan 24/2/98* owe may register

THE executive management of the University of the Free State (UFS) has decided that 287 students, who were promised Free State provincial administration bursaries in 1997 and who each owe the university more than R6 000, will be allowed to register provisionally from today.

The policy has so far been that no student who owes more than R6 000 will be allowed to register.

Professor Teuns Verschoor, director of transformation and student affairs, said the reason for the changed policy in regard to these specific students was that the UFS was awaiting the verdict in a test case on the provincial administration's obligation to pay the bursaries that were promised – but

were not paid.

At registration the students involved will be asked to sign an undertaking that if the court decides in favour of the administration – releasing the province from its obligation to pay the bursaries – the students' registration will be cancelled.

Verschoor said all students, whether they are provincial bursars or not, and who owe less than R6 000, are being allowed to register provisionally.

However, unless their provisional registration is changed to permanent registration by full payment of debt by April 3 1998, their registration will be cancelled and they will be asked to leave the campus. – *Sapa*.

# Student numbers drop as financial pressure mounts

Star 24/2/98 (54)

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT

Universities and technikons are facing a huge financial predicament in the wake of a dramatic drop in the number of student registrations.

Across the country tertiary institutions fear a substantial loss in income as student numbers which were budgeted for fail to materialise – a factor which could translate into further cutbacks in government subsidies.

This hits at a time when universities and technikons are still reeling from massive subsidy cutbacks over the past two years. Many have started taking steps to retrench staff.

"I'm very worried about it, quite frankly," said Professor Jos Grobbelaar, head of the Committee of University Principals (CUP).

"It could seriously detri-

mentally affect subsidies."

At Technikon Northern Gauteng the registration date has already been extended by two weeks, but the registration figure of 8 449 students falls short of the anticipated 10 000.

"The primary problem is finance although the matric exemption rate affected us as well," spokesman Godfrey Mdhluhi said.

Educationists are at a loss to explain the sudden drop in student numbers, although many believe that the poor matric exemption rate (17,2% in Gauteng) is a major contributory factor. Financial problems faced by students are also being blamed.

Previously students could register provisionally before paying their fees but massive student debts have forced institutions to adopt a tougher stance.



# Fees under discussion at Fort Hare (54)

BD 24/2/98

**Jonathan Davis**

LEADERS of the SA Student's Congress (Sasco) and their lawyers will meet attorneys representing the University of Fort Hare tomorrow to try to solve a fees crisis.

The organisation's attorneys failed to reach an agreement with attorneys representing the Committee of University Principals, Sasco secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said yesterday. He said the organisation decided to prioritise institutions where con-

flict over fees and student debt continued. These included the universities of Fort Hare and Venda, both closed last week following disruptions.

"How can you negotiate something while at the same time the policies you are negotiating are being implemented?" he said in reference to the new admissions policies at both institutions which Sasco was opposing.

Fort Hare was closed last week after the university's management obtained a court interdict ordering all students to leave the

campus. This followed reports of intimidation and damage to property. On Friday police were called in to enforce the interdict, but most students left peacefully.

Vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzamane confirmed tomorrow's meeting with students: "They indicated that they wished to have a heart-to-heart with us. I presume they have proposals which they wish to place before us. It will allow us to iron out some differences."

Mzamane said about 2 000 of the expected intake of 5 000 students had registered.

# Technikon evicts 900 students

Rector says under-achievers and those who won't pay must get out

54  
Sowetan 26/2/98

**T**ECHNIKON Free State has evicted 900 students with poor academic records, while another 36 were arrested on Tuesday for throwing food on a hostel floor and chanting in an inciting way, the institution's authorities said yesterday.

About 150 students were also dispersed by police when they toyi-toyed on the campus in sympathy with their evicted fellows and in contravention of an interdict against rebellious students.

Technikon rector Professor Bertus Koorts said the 900 underachievers had not met the technikon's academic standards. Students who failed all subjects in their first year and seniors who failed for two consecutive years forfeited their right of admission to the institution, he said.

Koorts said dean of students Dr Bobby Mandew had tasted the hostel food that students had complained about and had also called in a health

inspector to investigate the complaints. No grounds for the complaints could be found.

Koorts said there was no doubt that the food protest was merely the prelude to greater unrest. The manner in which the students incited others left no doubt about this.

Koorts said Technikon Free State did not dare to fall into the same trap of allowing students to make unreasonable demands to break down tertiary institutions.

"We refuse to accept late registrations. We refuse to admit students who do not achieve year after year. We refuse to admit students who do not pay for their studies," he said.

Although more student unrest was predicted, Koorts said the technikon would act swiftly and decisively against it.

The campus was quiet yesterday morning. - Sapa.

# Universities crumble in chaos

*Sowetan 26/2/98*

(574)

By Tom Leeuw, Annette Lansink and Sipho Sepe

**F**ARDLY a month into the new academic year, three historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) — the University of Western Cape, the University of Fort Hare, and the University of Venda — have had to buckle under the pressure of student protest.

The reasons advanced for their closure are couched in general terms: academic and financial exclusions. These broad terms, however, are inadequate to capture the fine intricacies and challenges facing the HDIs.

A closer inspection of the anatomy of events leading to the closure of these institutions reveals issues that are much more complex, some of which can be traced to the collapse of moral, political and intellectual authority in society. As an illustration, let us examine specifics.

Picture the following, at least as reported by *Sowetan* on February 20: "Students at the University of Venda braved heavy rains to block the main entrance at the campus... in a bid to ensure that vice-chancellor Professor (Gessler) Nkondo did not enter the university premises... although there was a heavy police presence, there were no clashes between the police and students."

It is a pity the reporter failed to indicate that the student representative council (SRC) disrupted management meetings on several occasions and that their behaviour was disrespectful in the extreme, characterised by abusive language.

On the same day as the report, students blocked the entrance to the university and prevented members of academic and administrative staff, in the presence of police, from entering the university.

Later when staff members were allowed on campus, their cars were searched by students in the presence

Student protests are taking forms that are undermining the new order

of the police. When asked about this, students indicated that they wanted to ensure the principal "may not sneak through in the boot of one of the cars".

Students derived a sadistic pleasure from humiliating staff, most of whom are old enough to be their mothers and fathers. This flagrant violation of the law and staff members' constitutional rights occurred in the presence of non-intervening police.

Are there prospects of stability and safety if we can no longer rely on the police to enforce law and order?

Disturbing also is that student protest is increasingly bordering on violent criminal activity.

For instance, last year an SRC building was torched at the University of Venda and this year unruly elements tampered with the university electricity, making it impossible for staff to work and for students to complete their registration.

The same lawlessness was reported at Fort Hare. According to Professor Mbulelo Mzamane, rector and vice-chancellor, the decision to close the university was inevitable as unregistered students adopted intimidatory and violent tactics to force the university to enrol them.

We are not oblivious of the fact that some national student organisations have distanced themselves from such conduct and condemned in the strongest terms possible elements bent on wanton destruction.

The fact that some parent political structures associated with student organisations encourage this institutional instability and sought to derive political mileage out of the ensuing fracas, bespeaks the moral decay,

## Unconsidered, anarchic tactics will not advance students' aims

Intellectual crisis and political bankruptcy bedevilling these organisations. How long will society continue to tolerate this disruptive and destructive behaviour that masquerades as legitimate protest? Can we imagine this happening at Wits University, the University of Cape Town or the University of Natal?

Whenever historically advantaged institutions (HAIs) are threatened with disruptions, this would hastily be accompanied by a strident chorus from Government, political parties and business reminding us that HAIs are national resources.

Such a chorus is notably absent in the case of HDIs. Could this double standard be an indication that these sectors harbour racist stereotypes about HDIs: that nothing of value can be expected from them?

To be fair to the Minister of Education, his office lost no opportunity to remind protesting students that they (students) do not appoint university principals.

What about the demands of the students? No question: student funding, in the first place, is a national problem and duty of the Government and not individual universities.

There were expectations that our new social-democratic Government would develop a national bursary system to ensure that access to tertiary education was not confined to the elite.

Unfortunately, education not being the only concern of Government, priorities had to be given to more neglected sectors, notably housing, health and job creation.



Minister of Education Dr Sibusiso Bengu.

What we are faced with is not only a question of priorities, but a fundamental challenge bearing on the morality of a student generation that misrepresents values appropriate to the new democracy.

Put in a wider context, the problems faced by HDIs at the moment cannot be reduced to outstanding fees, fee increments and readmission of students and financial assistance.

The objectives of students centre on student funding but the ill-considered anarchic tactics employed by some student bodies will not advance the goal nor are they supported by the majority of students at HDIs.

Student protest that incorporates violence is anachronistic and can be regarded as attempts to undermine the creation of a new society. Given that the context of student

politics — fighting an illegitimate regime — has changed, one would have thought that this would be complemented by a corresponding change in tactics and methods.

But the methods used, including class boycotts, belong to the forsaken past and are retrogressive.

All viable political systems have to develop procedures and use various kinds of institutions — family, church, civic organisations, educational institutions, media and political parties — to create new citizens necessary for the survival and growth of the new order.

So far most institutions and political parties have failed to embark on a programme to develop a vanguard cadre inspired by a new political culture and consciousness. (The writers teach at the University of Venda, Thohoyandou.)

# Students stage protest against Wits fee policy

By RYAN CRESSWELL

Mass action against campus decisions not to register non-paying students moved to the University of the Witwatersrand yesterday when six student leaders occupied the offices of the vice chancellor, Professor Colin Bundy.

The Students Representative Council (SRC) and South African Students Congress (Sasco) leaders moved in at about 11.30am after a march by about 100 students.

Sasco spokesman Mark Weinberg said the protesters left the offices at 4.30pm to attend a meeting with campus deans, but the meeting had not solved anything.

"People have been financially excluded. This is not an academic thing," he said.

He said the exclusion of students who owed or could not pay flew in the face of a Wits constitution clause.

Weinberg said a mass meeting of students would be held on the campus today.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that a crisis committee at the University of Venda in the Northern Province is to address issues which have caused the university's closure.

A university spokesman said the committee comprised members of the SRC, campus management and mediators.

Although students had been calling for the resignation of vice-chancellor G Nkonde, the SRC has agreed to sit with him on the committee.

The University of Fort Hare

campus in Alice in the Eastern Cape was all but deserted at the weekend as hundreds of students adhered to an eviction order restraining them from entering the campus.

The eviction order was granted by the Bisho High Court after some students disobeyed an order to leave the campus after management closed the university on Thursday.

The university was closed indefinitely after unregistered students started intimidating registered, paid-up students.

*Star 26/2/98 (54)*

# Technikon expels 900 students

BLOEMFONTEIN — Technikon Free State had evicted 900 students with poor academic records, while another 36 were arrested on Tuesday for throwing food on a hostel floor and chanting in an inciting way, the institution's authorities said yesterday.

About 150 students were dispersed by police when they toyi-toyed on the campus in sympathy with their evicted fellows and in contravention of an interdict against rebellious students.

Technikon rector Prof Bertus Koorts said the 900 underachievers had not met the technikon's standards.

Students who failed all subjects in their first year and seniors who failed for two consecutive years forfeited their right of admission, he said.

Koorts said the dean of students, Bobby Mandew, had tasted the hostel food that students had complained

about and had also called in a health inspector to investigate the complaints. No grounds for the complaints could be found.

Koorts said there was no doubt the food protest was merely the prelude to other greater unrest.

Koorts said Technikon Free State did not dare to fall into the same trap as the rest of Africa and allow students to make unreasonable demands to break down tertiary institutions.

"We refuse to accept late registrations. We refuse to admit students who do not achieve year after year. We refuse to admit students who do not pay for their studies," said Koorts.

Although more student unrest was predicted for yesterday, Koorts said the technikon would act swiftly and decisively against it. The campus was quiet yesterday morning. — Sapa.

(54)

BD 26/2/98

to strengthen the ANC. Although a diplomatic posting had been mooted for him, sources said he would be the ideal candidate to head the ANC's international division. The party needed someone of international calibre and international reputation to raise funds for the elections. Sources said Jordan had been demoted from the cabinet to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's behest — and that he had ample experience for the post as he had headed the department's publicity and information department. — Sapa.

## Wits SRC protests against exclusions

Pearl Sebolao

A GROUP of the University of the Witwatersrand's student representative council (SRC) members yesterday occupied the offices of vice-chancellor Prof Colin Bundy to protest against financial exclusions.

The SRC is demanding that Bundy reopen appeal procedures to students who have been forbidden to appeal against their exclusion from the institution.

SA Students' Congress spokesman Mark Wynberg said the university's stance was unfair to students since most of the students had valid reasons for not appealing on time.

Most students were prevented from appealing because the university withheld their final year results as they had not paid their fees, Wynberg said.

Student leaders are scheduled to address students this morning at a meeting to discuss further forms of action.

BD 26/2/98

(54)

## North West to probe Vryburg clashes

Kevin O'Grady

THE North West cabinet decided yesterday to establish a parliamentary committee to investigate and defuse racial tension at Vryburg High School, where 20 people were injured in clashes between white parents and black pupils this week.

Premier Popo Molefe's spokesman, David van Wyk, said the committee would start its work early today when it would meet school principal Theo Scholz, the education department's district manager and representatives of the school governing body.

The committee would also meet representatives of the town's black community.

Van Wyk said Molefe's point of departure in dealing with the issue was that pupils' constitutional right to learn "must be upheld and is nonnegotiable".

Sapa reports a bomb scare marked the start of the third day

of racial tension at the school yesterday. Police with sniffer dogs and a bomb unit eventually gave the all clear for pupils when no explosive device was found.

The scare followed two days of violent clashes and a hostage drama. The racial tension was sparked by the suspension of five pupils for not paying their school fees. The pupils marched with about 100 others to the district education offices on Monday and were allegedly involved in an altercation with members of the governing body.

A large group of angry white parents gathered at the school gates on Tuesday morning and retaliated by attacking black pupils as they entered the grounds.

Provincial education MEC Zacharia Tolo's spokesman, Frans Batsi, said most of the school's black pupils stayed away yesterday and the situation was "tense but calm".

Batsi said the education de-

partment was taking steps to avoid a repetition of the Vryburg drama and a similar occurrence in Schweizer-Reneke two weeks ago.

Experts in aspects of diversity and multiculturalism had been asked to go into the two communities and "educate people around race sensitivity issues".

Meanwhile, the African National Congress (ANC) in the province condemned the attacks on the children as "barbaric and intolerable" and called on the police and the education department to "take stern measures against the perpetrators".

The Conservative Party (CP) said the clashes "underscored the differences between the Afrikaner with his Western culture and the violent African culture of many black people".

"Afrikaner children wanted disciplined education, while black pupils would rather commit violence than study," CP spokesman Fanie Bosch said.

BD 26/2/98

(54)

# Fort Hare to reopen soon (54)

THE deadlock over non-payment of fees at the University of Fort Hare in Alice, Eastern Cape, has been broken by an agreement that the university will reopen on March 4.

The agreement, signed in Bisho on Wednesday by the students representative council and the university management, states that registration will start on March 4 and lectures on March 9.

The breakthrough came after a delegation of the South African Students Congress (Sasco) travelled to Alice on Tuesday to facilitate negotiations between the SRC and the university management.

Sasco's Tshilidzi Ratshitanga and Jacob Mamabolo told a media conference in Johannesburg yesterday that the breakthrough could form the blueprint for resolving similar deadlocks at other universities.

Fort Hare was closed last week after students protested against the university's refusal to enrol students who had not paid their fees. - Sapa.

27/2/98  
Kwame Ninsin

# Sasco intervention breaks Fort Hare deadlock

Star 27/2/98

(54)

The deadlock over non-payment of fees at Fort Hare University at Alice in the Eastern Cape has been broken with an agreement that the university will reopen on Wednesday.

The agreement, signed in Bisho on Wednesday by the Students Representative Council and university management, states that registration will commence on March 4 and lectures on March 9.

The breakthrough came after an SA Students Congress (Sasco) delegation travelled to Alice on Tuesday to facilitate negotiations between the SRC and university management.

Fort Hare was closed last week after students rioted in protest against the university's refusal to enrol students who had not paid their study fees.

The Universities of Transkei, Venda and the Western Cape have also been affected by students' resistance to "pay-up or shut out" policies.

Sasco's Tshilidzi Ratshitanga and Jacob Mamabolo said the breakthrough could form the blueprint for resolving other deadlocks.

On the issue of students with outstanding debts, Fort Hare management has backed down from its demand that

they settle all their debt before being allowed to enrol.

In terms of the agreement, students who owe less than R4 500 - according to Ratshitanga about 68% of indebted students - must agree to pay the debt by November 30.

Students who owe more than R4 500 must reduce their debt to R4 500 before registering and agree to repay the balance by November 30.

The agreement also proposes the establishment of an admissions committee, made up of representatives appointed by the vice-chancellor and the SRC, to assess students

who claim to be unable to pay their debt. This would expose students who were able to pay from hiding behind the genuine poverty of others, Ratshitanga said.

Students are required to pay 50% of their first semester fee on registration, 30% no later than May 31 and the balance at the end of the semester.

The SRC accepted the 15% fee increase was reasonable. It undertook to ensure that students would not "intimidate, harass, threaten or assault others; damage university property or undertake or participate in any unlawful actions". - Sapa



# Fort Hare to reopen after deal on fees

Jonathan Davis

BD 27/2/98 (54)

FORT Hare University will reopen next Wednesday following an agreement between university management and the students' representative council. The agreement, brokered by SA Student's Congress (Sasco) leaders, was signed on Wednesday this week.

Fort Hare had been closed and all students ordered to leave last week after rioting on campus. Students protested against management's refusal to readmit students with fees outstanding.

According to the agreement, students with debts of not more than R4 500 would be readmitted provided they undertook to repay their debts over the course of the year.

"It is a big victory for us," said Sasco secretary general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga. He said the university had backed down on its demand that students pay off their debts before readmission. He said most of the university's 6 000 students owed up to R4 500.

The university had also demanded that students pay this year's 1998 tuition fees in advance, but agreed to change this to 50% of their first semester fee, or R2 500, in advance.

Under the agreement a special committee will consider cases individually of students unable to reduce their debts to R4 500 or less.

Ratshitanga said the agreement at Fort Hare provided Sasco with "a good tool or example" for settling fee disputes at other institutions.

Fort Hare vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzamane said the agreement came very close to what the university had originally proposed. He said the university was prepared to admit students with debts of up to R4 500 provided they set up debit orders which would wipe out their debt by November 30.

Mzamane warned that students who defaulted would not be allowed to continue studying.

He denied that management had backed down and said that the university had always been prepared to consider "hardship cases" when representations were made to it.

## Highlands 'will ensure water for next century'

Deborah Fine

BD 27/2/98 (167)

THE Lesotho Highlands Water Project was a costly but important undertaking to ensure that SA had sufficient access to scarce water supplies well into the next century, Rand Water GM Archer Davis said yesterday.

Davis, who is the board's community support services GM, was speaking at a media briefing where the board announced a 9% increase in its tariff for water supplied to local authorities. This comprised the board's regular annual price increase. The tariff would rise to 168,45c/kl from April 1 and municipalities were expected to pass some to consumers.

Rand Water CE Vincent Bath said the board's increase reflected an 11% increase in the price at which the water affairs and forestry department sold raw water to the board, which in turn served as the bulk supplier to local authorities.

The department's water price would increase from 58c/kl to 95c/kl on March 1. About 75% of the increase would be used for the Lesotho Highlands Project.

Rand Water's tariff was made up of the 95c/kl charged by the department and an additional 73,45c/kl to cover the board's labour costs and the transporting, purifying, storing and pumping of water to local authorities.

Scarcity was an important factor governing its cost, Bath said. "Despite high rainfalls this summer, SA remains a water-scarce country with an average annual rainfall only about half of the world average."

# Students bar rector from university (54)

*bowler 28/2/98*

## Tertiary crisis deepens after two universities close and students resort to hostile protest

By Khathu Mamaila and Sapa

**S**TUDENTS at the University of Venda braved heavy rain yesterday morning to block the main entrance to the campus in a bid to prevent vice-chancellor Professor Gesler Nkondo from entering the university premises.

The students have called on Nkondo to resign as they claim he has failed to address their grievances. The university's administration meanwhile closed the institution indefinitely on Friday after disturbances on the campus.

Meanwhile, the University of Fort Hare at Alice in Eastern Cape was all but deserted at the weekend as hundreds of students adhered to a court order restraining them from entering or going within 100m of the campus without the written authority of management.

The eviction order was granted in the Bisho High Court after some students disobeyed an order to leave the campus after management closed the university on Thursday.

The university was closed indefinitely after unregistered students became violent and started intimidating their fee-paying and registered colleagues.

They also torched and plundered university

property, refusing to abide by council resolutions on admission and payment of fees.

At the university of Venda students are demanding that management reopen negotiations on the 14 percent fee increase and that expelled student leader Mr Boiki Tsedu be allowed to register. The students are also demanding that the university release the results of students who still owe their fees.

The general secretary of the students' representative council, Mr Mambush Mokgotho, said yesterday that hundreds of students gathered at the main gate as early as 7am.

### Academic programme

"We wanted to make sure that Nkondo does not enter the premises. We have realised that the only way to resolve the crisis at this institution is to get rid of him. The academic programme will not start before management addresses our demands," said Mokgotho.

Repeated attempts yesterday to speak to the university's spokesman, Mr Rufus Kharidzha, were unsuccessful.

Problems at the university started last year when students boycotted classes to protest against the fee increase. Tsedu, who is deputy president of the Azanian Students' Convention which organised the protest, was expelled.

# Royal boost to nurture future leaders

## Norway's King Harald pledges building for UWC school of government

APG 28/2/98

(54)

CAROL CAMPBELL

King Harald V of Norway has announced that his country will pay for a new building to house the University of the Western Cape's school of government, where it is hoped many of South Africa's future leaders will be trained.

The exact amount Norway will spend on the building has not been disclosed, but the king visited the campus yesterday to pledge his involvement in the project and to unveil a plaque which will be set at the entrance to the new building.

He said he hoped the university would continue its tradition of training South Africa's leaders and that it should not underestimate the importance of this role.

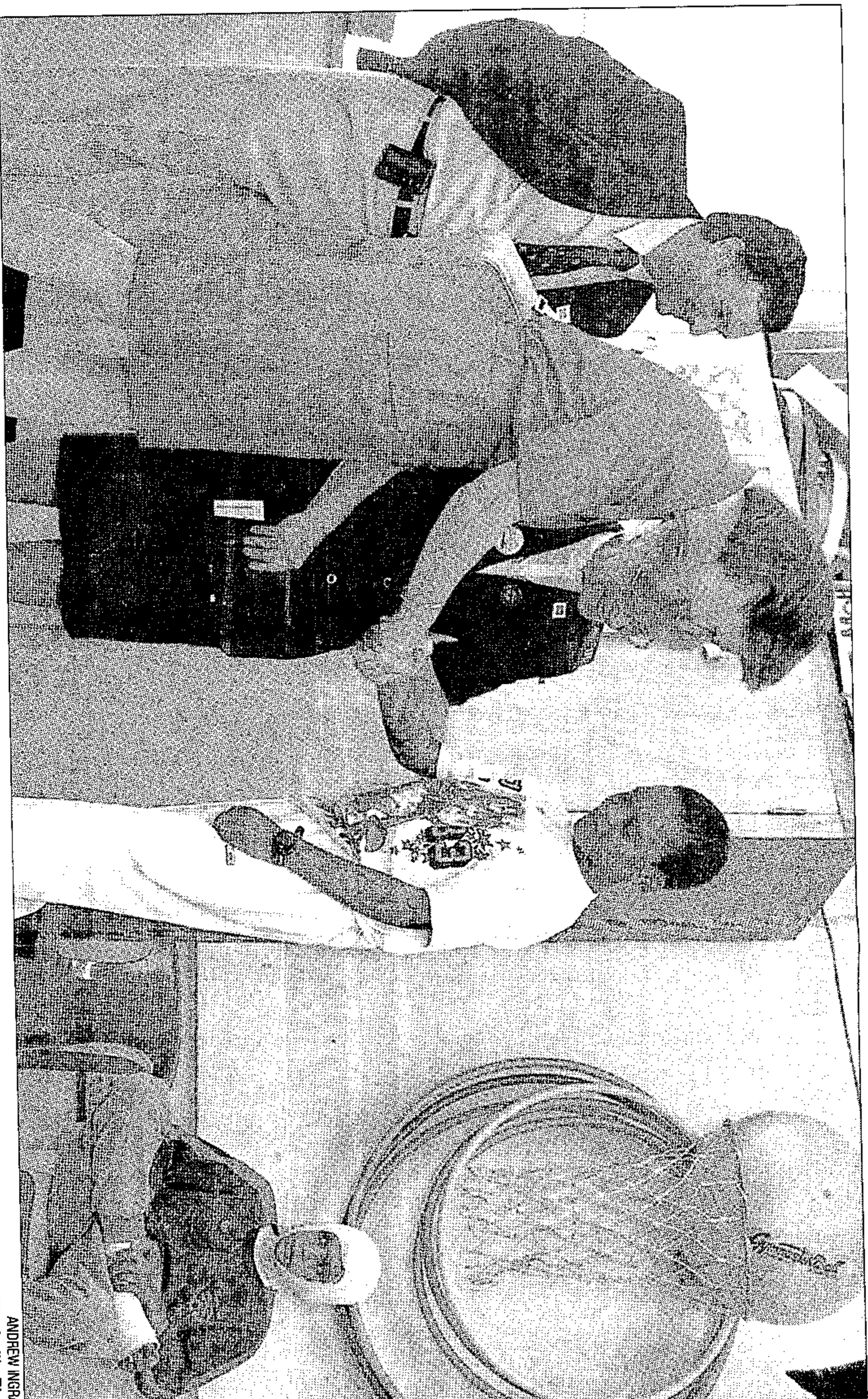
"I understand that several members of the Cabinet are former staff members of this university," he said. Justice Minister Dullah Omar, Water and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal and Public Service and Administration Minister Zola Skweyiya are all former UWC staffers.

President Mandela's special adviser, Jakes Gerwel, and South Africa's ambassador to Spain, Richard van der Ross, are both former rectors of UWC.

Chris Tapscott, head of the UWC school of government, said the university had lost many senior staff members to the public service when a new Government was elected in 1994.

To much laughter, Professor Tapscott joked: "We used to say UWC was the university of the left, now it's the university of the left-overs."

He explained that the school of government, founded in 1993, was scattered across a number of venues, making it difficult to run.



ANDREW INGRAM

**Reaching out:** Queen Sonja chats to a patient during her visit to the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Rondebosch. Later in the day, the couple visited Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain to attend a community sports day during which Queen Sonja pledged R650 000 to the upgrading of sports facilities for disabled sports men and women in the two areas

"This building will be much appreciated," he said. Students from the school spoke briefly to the king about their hopes and aspirations for South Africa.

Student Hector Tshabalala said it was taking a while for Africans to get

used to the idea that they were finally responsible for the running of the country.

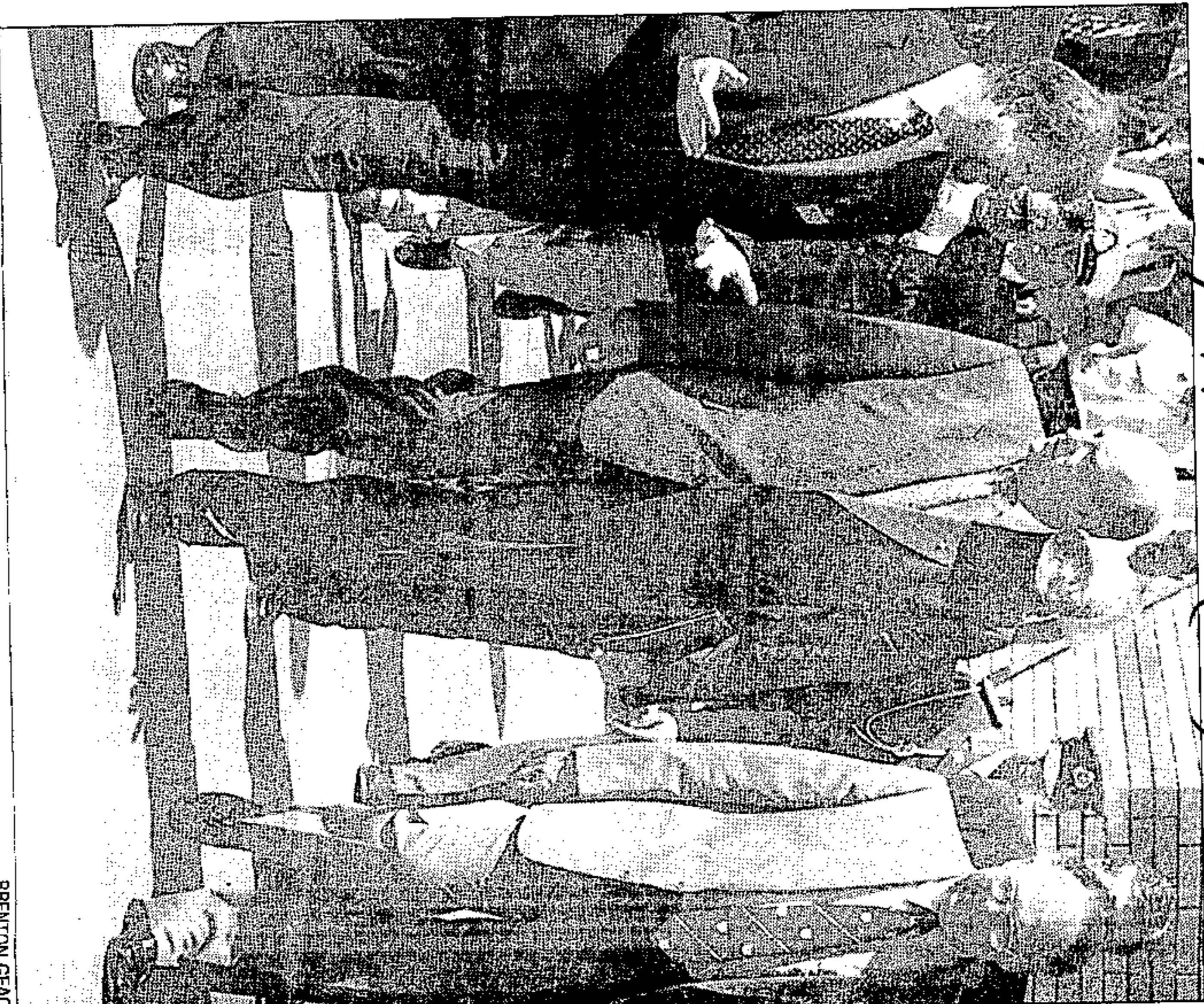
"Because of colonialism we developed the mentality that there were always people who would do it for us."

Moeniba Isaacs said it was time South Africans saw themselves as part of Africa and took charge of their own destinies.

King Harald reminded the students of the words of the late American president John F Kennedy: "Ask

not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

"That is my message to you all today," he said. Word spread quickly that royalty had arrived on campus and excited



BRENTON GEACH

**Royal tour:** King Harald V of Norway with Chris Tapscott, left, head of the UWC's school of government, and rector Cecil Abrahams

students greeted the king with a cheer when he arrived and was met by rector Cecil Abrahams.

While King Harald was visiting UWC, Queen Sonja was at the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Rondebosch.

In the afternoon, the couple visited Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain to attend a community sports day.

Queen Sonja pledged R650 000 to the upgrading of sports facilities for disabled sports men and women in the two areas.



# Fort Hare to reopen after breakthrough

(64) CP 1/3/98

THE DEADLOCK over non-payment of fees at Fort Hare University at Alice in the Eastern Cape has been broken with an agreement that the university will reopen on Wednesday.

The agreement, signed in Bisho on Wednesday by the Student Representative Council and university management, states that registration will commence on March 4 and lectures on March 9.

The breakthrough came after a delegation from the South African Students Congress travelled to Alice on Tuesday to facilitate negotiations between the SRC and university management.

Fort Hare was closed last week after students rioted in protest against the university's refusal to enrol students who had not paid their study fees.

Sasco's Tshilidzi Ratshitanga and Jacob Mamabolo on Thursday said the Fort Hare breakthrough could form the blueprint for resolving similar deadlocks at other universities, at Venda and Cape Town.

On the issue of students with outstanding debts, Fort Hare management has backed down from its demand that they settle all their debts before being allowed to enrol.

In terms of the agreement, students who owe less than R4 500 – according to Ratshitanga, about 68 percent of indebted students – are required to enter into an agreement to pay the debt by No-

ember 30.

Students who owe more than R4 500 are required to reduce their debt to R4 500 before registering and undertake to repay the balance by November 30.

The agreement also proposes the establishment of an admissions committee, made up of representatives appointed by both the vice chancellor and the SRC, to assess students who claim to be unable to pay their debt.

This would expose students who were able to pay from hiding behind the genuine poverty of others, Ratshitanga said.

Students are required to pay 50 percent of their first semester fee on registration, 30 percent no later than May 31 and the balance at the end of the semester.

The SRC also accepted that the 15 percent fee increase for 1998 was reasonable.

The SRC undertook to ensure that students, whether registered or not, would not "intimidate, harass, threaten or assault others or employees of the university, damage property or undertake or participate in any unlawful actions on campus".

Registration for agriculture, economics and theology students will take place on March 4; social science, arts and education on March 5 and science and law students on March 6.

Describing the agreement as a major breakthrough, Mamabolo appealed to students to co-operate with the SRC. – Sapa

# UniVen reopens, but only for registered students (54)

By HANGWANI MULAUDZI

Cl 1/3/98

THE beleaguered University of Venda (UniVen) in the Northern Province, which closed its gates last Thursday at the height of student protests, will re-open tomorrow under strict conditions.

UniVen closed its doors when students led by the Students' Representative Council demanded the resignation of the vice-chancellor and principal, Gessler Nkondo, after he had refused to accede to all demands by the students.

Students went on the rampage, damaging university property in protest against a fee hike and demanding the readmission of student leader Elijah Tsedu, who was suspended last year for causing disruptions on campus.

The campaign to disrupt the registration process and the academic programme led to the SRC's suspension and the arrest of nine students.

They were granted R200 bail each and will appear again in the Thohoyandou magistrate's court on March 6.

This week UniVen director of public relations and development, Rufus Kharidzha, said only registered students with valid student identity cards would be allowed on campus. Kharidzha said the registration would be fi-

nalised tomorrow.

"Students who have not registered by tomorrow will not be admitted to the university's premises," he warned.

Students would be required to make payments at the bank and produce stamped deposit slips at the main gate, said Kharidzha.

Students who had already registered would be required to produce student cards at the main gate, while students receiving aid should identify themselves to the financial aid staff at the main entrance.

Kharidzha confirmed that the SRC's functions had been suspended and said the suspension could be lifted if members adhered to certain conditions.

He said the SRC had to respect the composition of the executive, apologise to the university's management for their foul language and bad behaviour towards Nkondo and withdraw the memorandum discouraging students to register.

The SRC general secretary, Mambush Mokgotho, said management was out to divide the students.

He alleged that only 1 000 of the more than 7 000 students had already registered.

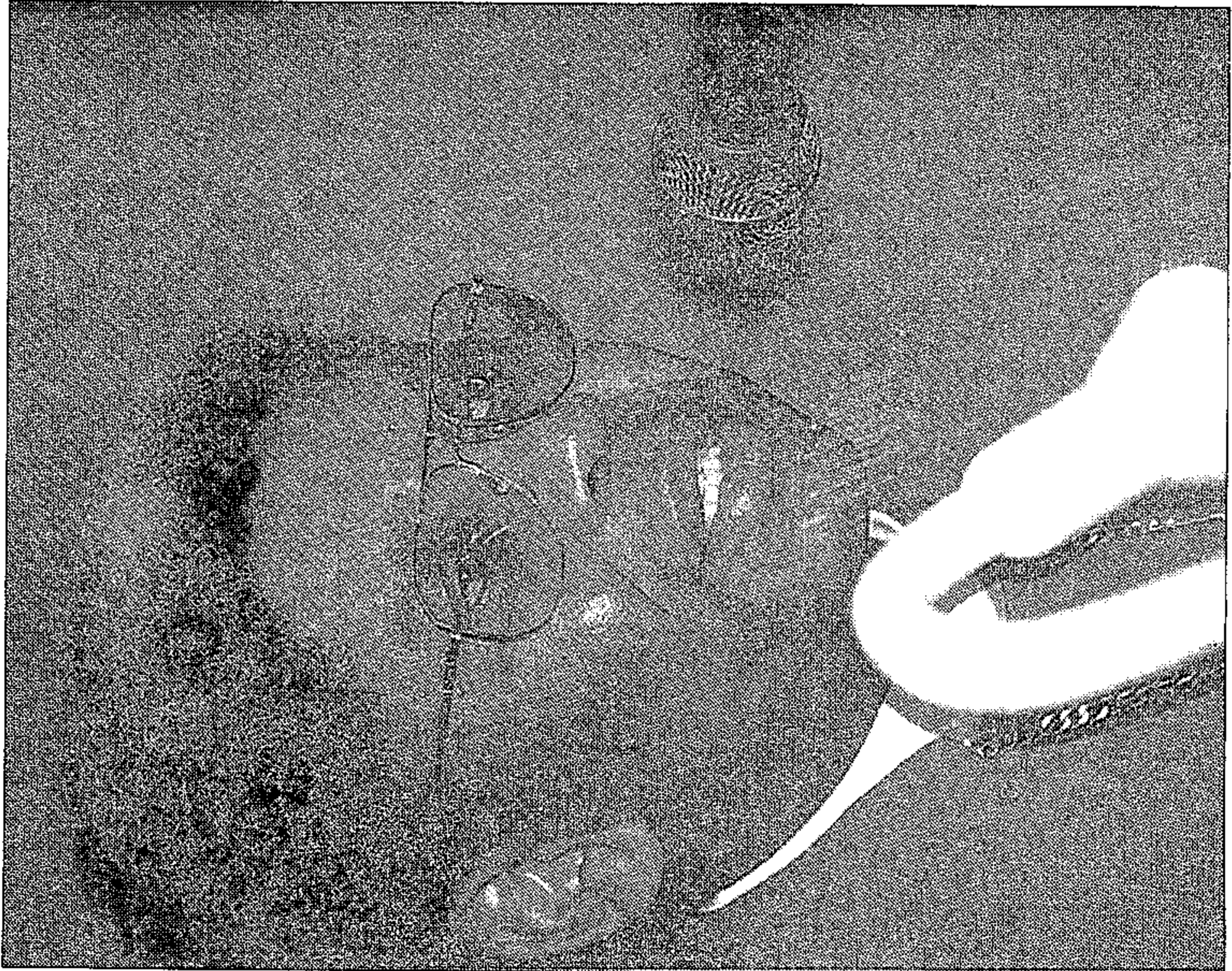
"We will not change our stance in our demands and we will not retreat," said Mokgotho.

# Ndungane calls for special fund for universities

(64)

1/2/98

## 'Poverty source of ignorance'



CHALLENGE . . . Rev Ndungane makes a call to Government, university authorities and students to help needy students.

**T**HE ANGLICAN Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Njongonkulu Ndungane, has called on universities, as well as government to create a new special bursary fund, called the Jubilee 2000 fund, to aid students who have been denied a proper education.

This call was made against the background of the refusal by universities to admit students who were unable to pay their fees.

Addressing students of the University of Cape Town, the Archbishop stated that education was one of the most debated issues in the public arena.

"The reason that the vast majority of South Africans have been denied access to education is poverty," said the Archbishop. "This is still the case, and is a compelling reason for us to consider how we, who have attained a degree of education and articulateness, can make a positive contribution."

Archbishop Ndungane also challenged the students

to commit themselves to sacrificing a meal a week until the Year of Jubilee, 2000. Acting as a co-operative, a student body could collect the money saved by skipping a meal, put in it a special fund and create a bursary fund for the benefit of those who are unable to further their studies due to lack of funds.

"I make a similar challenge to the university authorities and government.

"Create a new special fund, called the Jubilee 2000 Fund, which shall be for the sole benefit of students who come from homes, where for generations, they have been denied a proper, decent education, because they have been profoundly disadvantaged," he said.

"We need to face up to reality and recognise that we have to find new ways of doing things as we participate in the transformation of our society. This demands that we give our community at least as much as we receive from it." - Sapa

# Fort Hare opens (54) doors tomorrow

ARL 3/3/98

Grahamstown - Fort Hare University will re-open tomorrow after agreement was reached with the South African Students Congress (Sasco) over the payment of fees.

This follows the dramatic and sudden shutdown of the university on February 20 and a High Court interdict ordering students to leave the university after a week of disruptions by non-registered students who had not paid fees.

Students obeyed the court order and left the campus amid a heavy police presence the following day.

Six students were arrested for intimidation and violence before the court order.

International and exchange students were allowed to remain on the campus during the shutdown.

University registrar Dr Isaac Mabindisa confirmed this week that the faculties of economic sciences, agriculture and theology would be registering students for classes tomorrow.

On Thursday, students in social sciences, arts and education will be allowed to register, followed the next day by students in science and law.

Dr Mabindisa said: "The agreement with Sasco is that a 15% fee increase will remain and the registration fees of 50% for the semester also stay in force.

"There will be an instalment plan to pay 30% of the fees owed by no later than May 31 and the balance owing by the end of the first semester." - ECN



---

## Fort Hare to reopen after fee agreement (54)

GRAHAMSTOWN — Fort Hare University will reopen its doors today after agreement was reached with the SA Students Congress (Sasco) over the payment of tuition fees. **BD 4/3/98**

This follows the dramatic and sudden shutdown of the university on February 20 and a high court interdict ordering students to vacate the university after a week of disruptions by nonregistered students who had not paid fees.

Students obeyed the court order and left the campus amid a heavy police presence the following day. Six students were arrested for intimidation and violence prior to the university obtaining the court order.

University registrar Isaac Mabindisa confirmed this week that the economic sciences, agriculture and theology faculties would be registering students for classes today. Students in social sciences, arts and education will be permitted to register tomorrow, followed on Friday by students in science and law.

"The agreement reached with Sasco is that a 15% fee increase will remain and the registration fee of 50% for the semester also stays in force," Mabindisa said.

"There will be an instalment plan to pay 30% of the fees owed by no later than May 31 and the balance owing by the end of the first semester."

International and exchange students were allowed to remain on campus during the shutdown and post-graduate students were invited to return shortly after the main student body left. — ECN.

---

# Socialist body to be formed

(54)

**By Jimmy Tloti**

DIFFERENCES within student structures of the Black Consciousness Movement will result in the formation of a new student body before the end of April.

This announcement was made at a national consultation of the Black National Conference of Review (BNCR) in Soweto yesterday.

The event, which was held at the Methodist Centre in Central Western Jabavu, was attended by about 150 delegates from the Free State, Mpumalanga, North West, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

The consultation was part of preparatory steps towards the launch of a new socialist body at Shaft 17, Crown Mines, on March 21.

## **Creeping liberalism**

Should the new student body be formed, it will focus on campaigning against "creeping liberalism at institutions of higher learning".

The new student body will seek to encourage a culture of critical writing and black solidarity free of "white tutelage".

Meanwhile, a five-member delegation of the BNCR is at present touring several African countries to lobby support and to introduce the organisation to "our brothers and sisters". The delegation, led by national chairman Mr Lybon Mabasa, also attended a meeting with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank at Ivory Coast on February 24.

*Sowetan 4/3/98*

# Fort Hare is back on track

54

THE University of Fort Hare will reopen today, a week after riots by unregistered students seeking admission closed the campus.

Registrar Dr Isaac Mabindisa said yesterday unregistered students would have to prove they had paid at least half the fee for the first term. Lectures will resume next Monday and late registrations will take place on March 11. Registration of agriculture, eco-

nomics and theology students will take place today, for social science, arts and education students tomorrow, and science and law students will register on Friday. Fort Hare spokesman Mr Mbeko Mnyatheli said a preliminary amount of about R82 million had been approved for the institution for the current academic year. The funding level for 1998/99 was lower than the previous year. - Sapa.

*Sowetan 4/3/98*

# Row erupts over higher education

Dustin Chick

(54) BD 6/3/98

A ROW has broken out between industry partners advising the SA Qualifications Authority (Sqa) and the soon to be finalised council on higher education, which has been blamed by participants in the authority for excluding role players from moves to transform higher education in SA.

The authority was established in 1995 to implement the national qualifications framework, while the council was established late last year to advise the education minister on higher education issues.

An industry source said the new council was trying to exclude outside role players and seeking to take over responsibilities from Sqa.

The authority has established 12 fields of learning (ranging from agriculture to business and commerce) with industry participants in each of the fields, while the council has been blamed for not consulting the industry at all.

Sources said while both organisations were of equal status within the education department and were considered complementary bodies, their functions had not been clearly defined and their responsibilities

had begun to overlap.

The council's registrar has been criticised for stating that institutions who operate on the Internet, will not be recognised or registered as tertiary institutions.

Sqa's executive officer Samuel Isaacs said claims that the council was excluding role players were unfounded, as the council was still in the process of being formed and members have not yet been appointed. He said the authority's underlying role remained the development of the national qualifications framework. Isaacs said his organisation was acting under a clear mandate of the SA Qualifications Authority Act.

Although fears had been raised, there remained no attempt to undermine the authority or the national qualifications framework.

Isaacs said any attempt to undermine the role of the authority would be challenged appropriately by the organisation and Parliament, to which it was expected to report once a year through the minister of education.

Education department spokesman Bheki Khumalo said the minister was only due to announce the councillors' names on April 1.

The more the merrier ... Wits University students packed 38 students into a Fiat Uno on campus yesterday because they took too long. Winners of the annual student competition this year was the Unive

## Medunsa may be closed to save money

**MOSHOESHOE MOKABE**  
Pretoria Correspondent

Medunsa, which trains 80% of the country's black doctors, is facing possible closure and has been told to cut the number of lecturers by half - from 201 to 98 - and to downgrade specialists to senior lecturers.

Also, GaRankuwa Hospital, Medunsa's academic training hospital, will have 40% of its budget cut by the financial constraints of the Gauteng Health Department.

At a press conference at the

*Star 6/3/98*  
university yesterday, Medunsa staff attacked the proposals as a ploy to shut the university.

The Structural Transformation Plan (STP), the provincial department's attempt to operate within a budget allocated by the national Health Department, proposes that half the teachers and specialists at Medunsa be redeployed.

The proposals are due to be implemented during the financial year beginning on April 1.

"This is unfair to the university, which has been disadvantaged in the past and was

*(54)*  
the first one to support Dr Nkosazana Zuma's community service bill, unlike other institutions such as the University of Pretoria which saw 57% of its graduates go abroad last year," Medunsa vice-principal Professor Ramaranka Mogotlane said.

Gauteng health spokesman Popo Maja said the STP was "part of a plan to decentralise specialists from academic institutions, not only at Medunsa but at all other institutions such as Wits. We will not re-trench anyone."



**GETTING FEES . . .** Prof Mbulelo Mzamane, University Fort Hare's rector, wants percentage of fees to be paid upfront.

# Fort Hare gets tough on student debt

(54)  
CP 8/3/98

By ANDILE NOGANTA

**F**ort Hare University Rector Mbulelo Mzamane noted last week that the university had a number of students who have "over-stayed" their degree programme - but who had made "little progress".

The same students, no doubt, who are engaged in a running battle with the university over re-registration; but simultaneously owing the institution large sums of money.

The university's accumulated debt stood at R26 million by the end of 1997.

Students registered for 1997 alone owed over R13 million, but university registrar Isaac Mabindisa says that had been brought down to R8 million by the end of February this year.

Registration resumed this week after unregistered students plundered university property and intimidated their registered colleagues, forcing the university to close for a week.

And a review committee comprising members of the university management has begun considering individual cases of students who don't have money to register - after the Students Representative Council allegedly withdrew its own members from the committee, at the last minute.

The committee will look at special cases of students who come from very needy backgrounds and who have made good academic progress.

By Thursday, Mabindisa said they had allowed seven such students to register.

But meritorious achievements remained a strong criterion, making it uncertain how many students would be considered for special treatment.

One thing is certain, "academic pensioners", as Mzamane has referred to them, would be left out.

This could mean a large number of students will not be registering.

Meanwhile, the Department of Education in the past sent what Mabindisa regards as a "mixed message" by "not supporting exclusions" while giving the university the permission "to deal with financial and academic matters" as they saw fit.

There is the case of one student who ran up a debt of close to R30 000 - while not completing a degree in five years.

And for years the university could not exclude students like these. "The policy of no academic exclusions and no financial exclusions has been a political slogan that has affected the university," observed Mabindisa.

But Fort Hare has decided to take a tough new stance on student debt this year.

On registration students now have to pay 25 percent of the fees upfront, and any outstanding debt accumulated from previous years has to be eliminated by November.

Failure to honour this will result in the students being suspended.

This marks a shift from last year when parents were asked to sign affidavits committing themselves to settling student debts, but the university could not enforce this rule.

Fort Hare recognises it has many students who can't cope with university studies and end up drifting from one study programme to the next without making progress, Mabindisa says.

Mabindisa says the university needs a degree programme that is spread over four years instead of the current three, to help prepare the student, but that has funding implications.

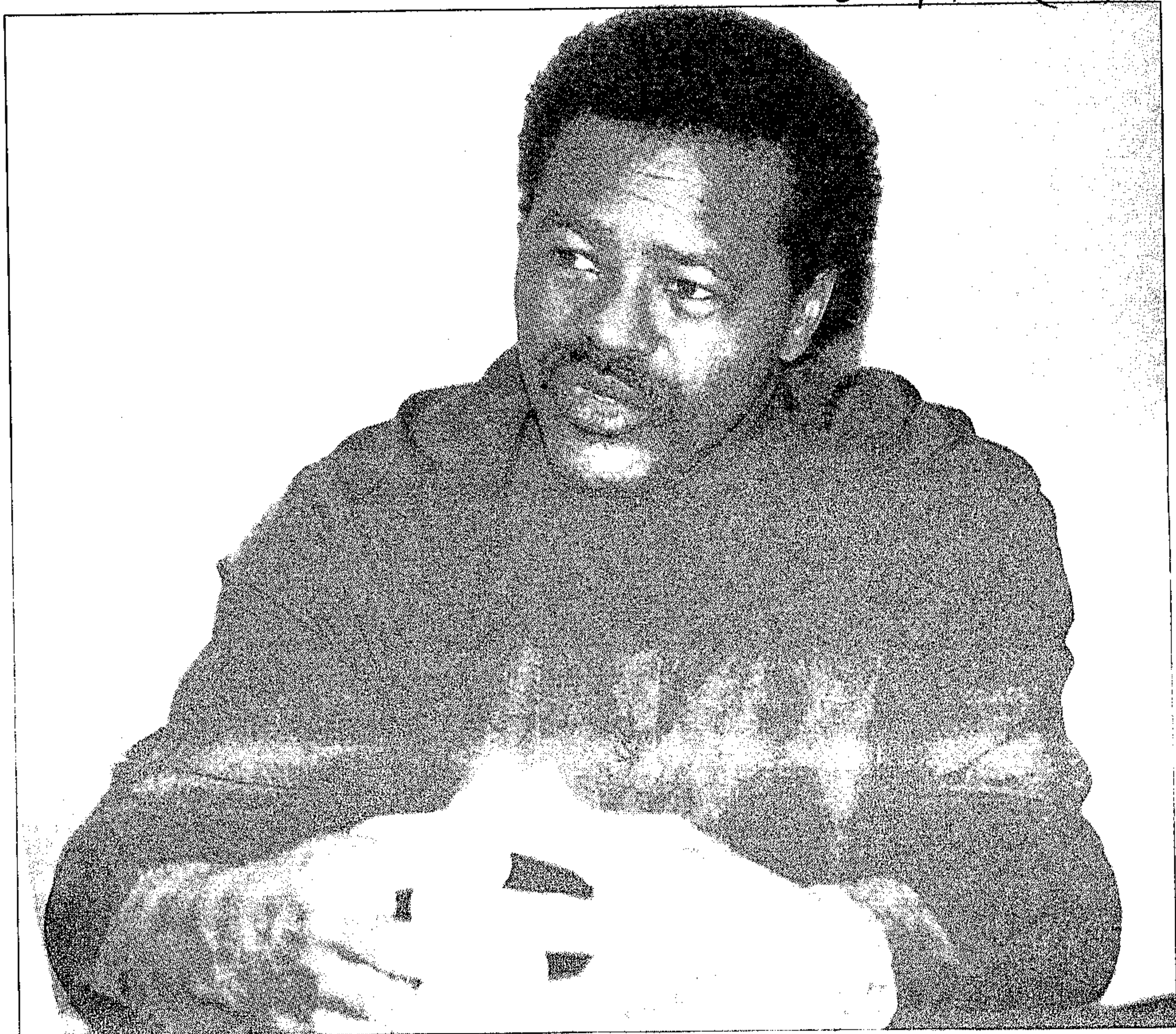
After monitoring the progress of student registration for a B Sc degree from 1987, statistics show that out of 76 students, only six qualified in the three years allocated the programme.

Seven completed in four years and at the end of six years sixteen students had qualified, with only one from the original 76 completing in 1992, Mabindisa said.

"It is a shocking statement about our education. The country is crying out for skills but our students are performing like this and these are only the science figures," he said.

# Medunsa resists planned cut-backs

CP 8/3/98 (54)



**CHALLENGE**... The dean of the faculty of medicine at Medunsa, Professor Mpumelelo Bomela, is attacking the Gauteng Health Department's proposal to reduce the number of the lecturing staff at the institution. **Pic: SOLLY MOELA.**

By PHALANE MOTALE

**T**he Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa) faces collapse – or at best drastic cutbacks – due to unpaid tuition fees and declining state subsidies.

Medunsa, which in the past 20 years has produced South Africa's largest number of African medical practitioners and allied health workers, has a R75 million deficit which includes R53 million owed to the university by students.

The situation is so serious that the university had to negotiate with its bankers for an extended overdraft to enable it to pay salaries until the allocation of the next budget in April.

Adding to its woes is that the Gauteng Health Department told the university to cut the number of its lecturers by more than half – from 201 to 98 – and downgrade specialists (professors) to senior lecturers.

The provincial government has also proposed from April 1 to reduce the number of beds at Ga-Rankuwa Hospital – where Medunsa's students do their practical training – from 1 700 to 1 041.

The department has allocated the hospital only R52 million for the next financial year – R33 million less than it needs.

Medunsa needs at least 3 000 beds at Ga-Rankuwa to adequately train doctors.

Both institutions were recently in the news when they successfully separated Zambian siamese twins Luka and Joseph Banda during a marathon 30-hour operation performed by a team of surgeons from South Africa, the US and Zambia.

The dean of the faculty of medicine at

“There is definitely no specialist who is going to remain in the employ of the institution after a salary cut and demotion while they can earn up to double the amount in the private sector.

“If the specialists leave, it will be a matter of continuing without them and producing medical assistants instead of doctors,” he said.

Bomela told City Press that the proposal was a recipe for disaster and a blow to the training of African doctors because Medunsa and Ga-Rankuwa were already under-resourced with doctors, nurses and auxiliary service providers.

“It will be a criminal act. Patients will die due to lack of specialist care. It's crazy,” Bomela said.

He said the hospital's 1 700 beds were already not enough for the training of students. Doing away with some of the beds could have a negative effect on 1 500 MBChB students, 200 science students and 300 post-graduates.

Bomela said Medunsa was the hardest hit by government subsidies because it was funded at a factor of 1.92 while others were funded at a factor of 1.1.

“But things have changed now. We are all funded at a factor of 0.88. The problem is that medical and science programmes are longer and more expensive, and we can definitely not sustain the academic programme with less funding,” Bomela said.

He said Medunsa had made pleas to the Portfolio Committee of Health and the Ministry of Education about the implications of the STP, but both parties had remained silent.

“It seems Medunsa is being punished

provincial department to operate within a budget allocated by the national department, and strongly denied that Medunsa was facing closure.

“The STP is applied at all institutions in the province with the aim of making resources equally available to all people.

“The reduction of the staff at Medunsa, Wits and other institutions is done in order to decentralise specialist resources.

“It is also not true that we will be downgrading specialists to senior lecturers. In the public service a senior cannot be demoted.”

Maja also denied reports that 700 beds at Ga-Rankuwa would be done away with. “All we said was that for Medunsa's capacity we needed another hospital.”

He said the health department proposed converting Leratong Hospital in Krugersdorp on the West Rand to an academic hospital.

Bomela slammed the idea, saying Leratong was too far away from Medunsa, which is in the north-west of Pretoria.

He said former health minister Dr Rina Venter had approved a new hospital on the grounds of Ga-Rankuwa and the foundations had already been dug, but the funds were then diverted to the Pretoria Academic Hospital.

“They are entertaining the dream that the new, yet-uncompleted academic hospital in Pretoria would be completed, and would serve as a Central Academic Hospital for both Pretoria University and Medunsa.

“This betrayal of the black community is obviously orchestrated and deliberate. “The further advantaging of some, at the expense of the disadvantaged, is clear

# UWC sees parents on fees

STAFF REPORTER

(54)

University of the Western Cape staff will meet students' parents at 10 centres countrywide this week to try to recoup fee debts.

UWC head of finance Herman Rhode said finance staff would be available at Technikon SA offices in Durban, Johannesburg, Pretoria, East London, Port Elizabeth, Umtata, Queenstown, Kimberley, Upington and Nelspruit to discuss payment problems and options with parents.

The offices will be open from tomorrow until Saturday.

"Already, 900 parents have made contact with us about payment of fees

and we will be set up meetings to resolve their problems," he said.

The university's outstanding fee debt has dropped to R27-million from R55-million at the end of last year.

"Money is coming in," Mr Rhode said.

Earlier this month students and the UWC administration agreed that students would make an immediate payment of R2 000 to be accepted at university and R500 to get into residences.

Parents who would like to contact the university about fee problems or set up appointments at fee centres can telephone (021) 959-3518/9 or (021) 959-3520.

ARG 10/3/98

circumstances beyond his control, and then brought the application.

"The president does not claim to be above the law or claim any special privilege attached to his person," he said. "Public interest demands some deference ... to his office."

He argued that the president should only testify in special cases, those of public importance, and only where a strong prima facie case had been made against him.

The president had submitted a written affidavit in which he rejected the Sarfu claims that he rubber-stamped the minister's decision.

Counsel for Sarfu, Mike Maritz, SC, said the matter was an issue of public importance and a prima facie case had existed when the original order was made that the president should testify.

## X PROBLEM

ence  
x Drive  
Erections  
jaculation

## O PROBLEM

ed doctors offer safe and reliable  
ns for these very common and  
reatable conditions.

## MENS CLINIC INTERNATIONAL

SPECIALISTS IN MALE SEXUAL HEALTH

TOWN & GEORGE  
r an appointment call toll free:  
**800 222 203**  
24 hours, Fri - Sun (8am - 9pm)

GUS - 0800 220 770  
SCRIPTION HOTLINE

# Judge 'amazed' by Pollsmoor conditions

NORMAN JOSEPH  
STAFF REPORTER

(Signature)

A Cape High Court judge said it amazed him to discover that only two warders looked after 300 inmates in Pollsmoor Prison.

Mr Justice John Prisman said the Department of Correctional Services, a very important department, was starved of funds and officials worked under great pressure.

Judge Prisman made his comments yesterday after meeting Pollsmoor Prison deputy head John Lategan.

The meeting was called to discuss why prison officials failed to carry out a court order that a man on trial for murder and robbery see a doctor

ARG 10/3/98

at the prison at the weekend.

Officials said the order was not attached to documents which accompanied the man, Mogammat Shafiek Bailey, who became ill in court on Thursday.

Judge Prisman said the Bill of Rights and the Constitution gave prisoners the right to food, books, visits and medical attention.

He ordered that Mr Bailey be taken to a district surgeon.

Mr Bailey, 26, of Mitchell's Plain, is charged with murdering shopkeeper Mohammed Allie Dhansay and seriously wounding his wife Mumtaz.

Mr Bailey is also accused of robbing them of R1 500 in January last year.

The hearing is continuing.



## Natal university to streamline faculties

Nicola Jenvey (54)

DURBAN — The University of Natal will propose reconstituting faculties and establishing new schools of discipline across the Durban and Maritzburg campuses, moving it into the final stages of restructuring interdisciplinary studies.

Vice-chancellor Brenda Gourley said yesterday a 1994 strategic planning initiative, which anticipated the global developments in higher education and the restructuring requirements of the Higher Education Act, recommended the university move towards interdisciplinary studies.

Next week's proposals to the senate would reduce the number of departments across the two campuses to 30 (from 122) and faculties to eight (14).

The proposals will promote the regional sharing of resources including senior academic staff and libraries, eliminate wasteful duplication and encourage synergies between disciplines, universities and the communities in which they are rooted.

Academic deputy vice-chancellor Ahmed Bawa said the university already accepted that the number of faculties and departments be reduced and that the duplication between the campuses be minimised.

He said the university academic staff had "already been cut to the bone" over the past few years and the proposals would relieve staff from tedious administration and release additional research time.

No more staff jobs were on the line, but Gourley said the reduction in the number of department heads "would be greeted with relief".

Bawa said fewer faculties did not mean the university was eliminating disciplines, programmes and courses. In contrast, the process would allow for an increase in the range offered.

50 1113198



# Tertiary funding up, but only nominally

TROYE LUND

(54)

CT/12/3/98

**FINANCE MINISTER Trevor Manuel** will make taxpayers fork out R6 billion for the country's 21 universities and 15 technikons in the coming financial year.

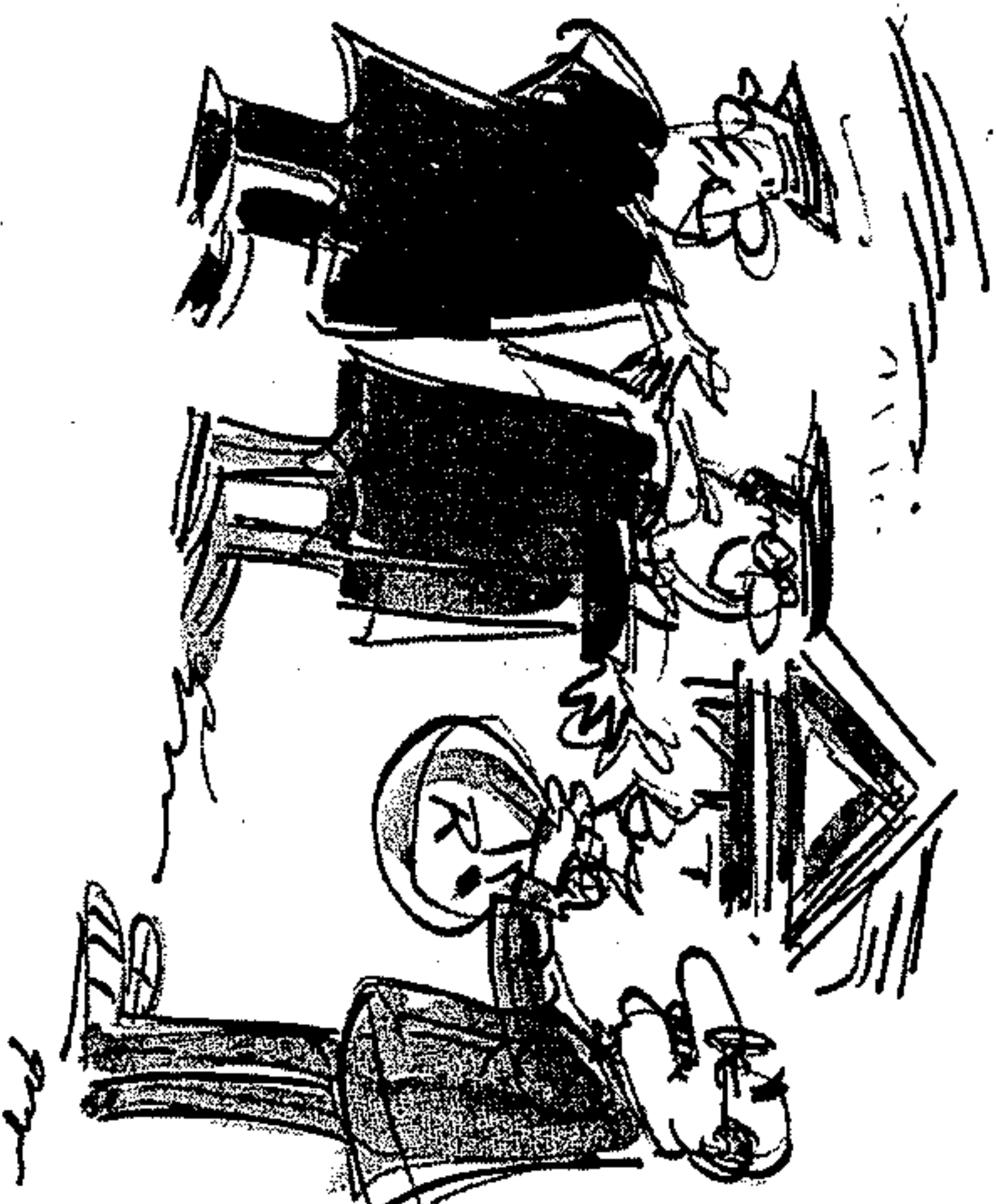
Allocations to universities increase by 9,4% to R4,15bn this year, and the technikon budget rises from R1,31bn to R1,55bn.

But, this is no more than last year in real terms, and allocations still favour previously white, advantaged institutions, university and technikon spokespersons in the Western Cape said yesterday.

All inflationary indicators taken into account, these figures mean that universities and technikons will get the same percentage of a funding formula that they did in the past financial year.

The formula is worked out according to factors such as student numbers in 1996, success rates and numbers in specific faculties.

Science students, for example, attract double the subsidy that arts students do.



University of the Western Cape spokesperson Mr Elwan van Gensen said:

"Because the historically disadvantaged institutions are not as equipped as advantaged institutions to train scientists and architects, they attract fewer of these

students and so get less money than the previously white institutions."

Stellenbosch University, which is arguably South Africa's best-resourced campus, benefits from the increase and sets its subsidy at R124 million more than the Uni-

versity of the Western Cape.

University of Cape Town spokesperson Ms Helen Zille said: "The formula has not changed yet."

"With our allocation we will still have to rely enormously on fees and fundraising. These, together with the government allocation, may allow us to balance the books."

"But rigorous strategic planning and astute management will be crucial and are the keys for any institution."

Figures for tertiary institutions in the Western Cape are: University of Cape Town R293,19m (R256,93m last year); University of Stellenbosch R275,07m (R227,52m); University of the Western Cape R151,89m (R145,58m), and Cape Technikon R115,40m (R101,79m).

The formula used in working out these allocations is set to change from the present one based on past expenditure, to one that estimates future expenditure while seeking to redress the present imbalances between institutions.

04  
101  
116  
36  
FAIR  
FDH  
sroh  
bns  
digni  
murd  
r bns  
noit  
niriof  
mths  
IT  
ning  
9226K  
ent zi  
2 gnil  
drud  
at 101  
vintu  
9qs  
107pd  
rwoT  
IT  
0 9rls  
J hnm  
0uf3  
awD  
srg91  
schik  
H

'I CAN'T SEE ANY WAY THEY CAN BE HELPED'

# Legal wrangle sours students' dreams

CT 13/3/98 (54)

**THE WINE INDUSTRY TRUST**, formed to assist the disadvantaged after the KVV court settlement, is tied up in red tape while a group of students struggle to pay their fees. **ERIC NTABAZALILA** reports.

**T**HE dreams of six black University of Stellenbosch students who want to make their mark in the exclusively white wine industry could come crashing down as the Wine Industry Trust — formed to help people from previously disadvantaged communities — is caught in a legal wrangle.

Although the future of Mr Thokozani Mtshali, Mr Michael Shandu, Mr Thokozani Sibeko, Ms Bonginkosi Buthelezi, Ms Silindile Msimango and Ms Busisiwe Biyela look bleak, they are still confident that someone will come to their aid.

"I'm confident that if I do well in my first year, someone will come and help me out," Shandu said.

The students are all in their first year and registered for BSc Agriculture, majoring in viticulture oenology.

The trust was formed last year after an out-of-court settlement between KVV and the government over the ownership of KVV's assets. KVV agreed to pay a membership fee of R447 million to the Wine Industry Trust for the next 10 years.

The trust would invest some of its money in areas such as research and development, export promotion, social development projects, training and upgrading of skills of farm workers and the facilitation of the entry into the industry of new players from former disadvantaged communities, as primary producers.

The settlement followed after KVV announced that it intended to convert from a wine co-operative to a private company.

Mr Theo Pegel, KVV co-operative director, said the company had its own bursary scheme, but it was late for the students to apply. He said the company was helping students from financially disadvantaged communities.

Pegel said he did not know where the students got the information about the trust.

"We never envisaged it to be formed by this time of the year. Role players



**BLACK VITICULTURISTS:** University of Stellenbosch students, Thokozani Sibeko (left), Bonginkosi Buthelezi, Thokozani Mtshali, Silindile Msimango, Michael Shandu and Busisiwe Biyela, wish to make their mark in the exclusively white wine industry. However, they need financial assistance to continue their studies to become primary wine producers.

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

and the manager of the trust had to be first elected by Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs Derek Hanekom, and then they would decide how these students could be helped. I can't see any way they can be helped right now," he said.

Mr Jabulani Ntshangase, a trustee of the South African Airways Wine Education Trust and a partner at the Spice Route Wine Company, said: "The reason there are no role players appointed to discuss how cases like this could be handled is because the minister and his department are not doing their jobs. Our students are suffering while these people are busy spending months dis-

cussing acts of law."

Ntshangase said he had earlier written a letter to KVV requiring that the students be assisted financially. The company replied that "no such funding would be available as the company's entire social responsibility budget had been committed to the payments it would make to the Wine Industry Trust".

He then wrote another letter to Hanekom asking him to intervene as he was not certain whether the trust would be formed in time to help the students with their initial payments.

He wanted the university to obtain some guarantee that the fees for some

of the entrants will be met from this fund.

Up to now, nothing had come forward and he had assisted the students financially when he saw that they were "struggling".

Mr Steven Goldblatt, legal adviser to Hanekom, said: "I don't think the minister can bind the trust on what it should and should not do. According to the agreement, there must be a change in the Wine and Spirits Act which was supposed to be discussed in Parliament yesterday.

"I think the solution lies in negotiations within the wine industry where all the role players who would form the

trust could meet to discuss how a special payment could be made to the university. I will try to attend to this case next week and see what we can do," Goldblatt said.

Ntshangase made a direct appeal to the government that, while it discusses the act, it should consult the university and guarantee that students' fees and other expenses would be met once the trust has been formed.

Although there were frustrations caused by the delay, credit should be given to companies who had come forward and helped people from former disadvantaged communities, Ntshangase said.

# Subsidies move from varsities to technikons: Wits, RAU exceptions

BY JOVIAL RANTAO  
Political Correspondent

54

Star 13/7/98

Subsidies to the universities of Pretoria and North West and the Medical University of SA (Medunsa) have been cut as the Government starts to move money from universities to technikons.

According to this week's Budget, universities have received a below-inflation increase of 5,9% while technikons get an 18,3% increase. No technikon subsidies were cut.

The University of Pretoria will this year receive R518-million, which will be 34% less than last year. The University of the North West subsidy was reduced from R95-million to R74-million.

The subsidy for Medunsa, the only medical institution with a majority of black students, has been cut from R109-million to R96-million.

The University of Transkei's subsidy was cut by 8,4%, from R113-million to R100-million.

The University of the Witwatersrand and Randse

Afrikaans Universiteit received increases. Wits' subsidy was increase from R274-million to R319-million. RAU will this year receive R198-million (R174-million in 1997).

The University of Potchefstroom's went up from R132-million to R156-million. The subsidy to the University of the North increases from R190-million to R217-million.

Government assistance to the University of South Africa increased by from R311-million to R411-million. The University of Venda gets R91-million, a 6,3% improvement.

The University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape received increases of 14,4% and 4,1% respectively. Fort Hare's subsidy increased from R82-million to R89-million. Rhodes University's subsidy went up from R72-million to R81-million.

Stellenbosch University has been increased from R227-million to R275-million.

Technikon Witwatersrand received the biggest increase. Its subsidy was increased from

R115-million to R154-million. Technikon North West received the second biggest slice with an increase of 32,3% from R34-million to R45-million.

Technikon SA was third with a 20,6% increase (R180-million to R217-million).

Technikon Northern Transvaal received a 10,3% increase (R87-million to R96-million). Pretoria Technikon gets R177-million, an increase of 8,6%, and Technikon Vaal Triangle received a 3,2% increase (R94-million to R97-million).

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said universities and technikons were funded in terms of an agreed formula based on student numbers, enrolment growth, research outputs and a range of related cost parameters.

A new public funding framework is envisaged to create more equitable student access, improved quality of teaching and research, increased student progression and graduation rates, and greater responsiveness to social and economic needs.

# Higher fees make for fewer students

Mukoni T Ratshtanga

Unique learning centres established in 1995 by Unisa attempted to offer distance-education students some of the advantages of classroom teaching. But three years later, enrolment at one of the primary centres in downtown Johannesburg is on the decline.

Students blame rising fees, fear of the city centre and the formal way their teachers relate to them.

The university this year increased its registration fees from R60 per course to R160. In addition to these and tuition fees, students who go to the learning centres for extra tutoring must pay an extra R160 per subject.

Johannesburg centre co-ordinator Nthokozi Mthembu enrolled more than 2 000 students last year. But this week she said: "The financial aspect is making it difficult for students. But we hope that they will make it their responsibility to pay the fees. The numbers are not rising."

This year, Mthembu's enrolment has declined to about 1 800 — reflecting a 10% decline in a programme expected to be reaching an ever-increasing portion of Unisa students.

The decline is expected at other centres, but Unisa's national learning centres programme director Thandi Ngengebulu could not confirm final enrolment figures this week.

Last year, Unisa's five major learning centres — in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Pietersburg, Durban and Cape



M+G 13/13/98 (54)

**Less learning: An increase in fees and inner-city crime are being blamed for declining enrolment figures at Unisa's downtown learning centres. PHOTOGRAPH: NADINE HUTTON**

Town — together with several smaller satellite centres, collectively served about 12 000 students.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) blames the fee hike for the decline in figures, which it claimed this week was imposed without consultation. The SRC adds that the amount the university is charging is "more than any university in-

crease in the country".

The learning centres offer tutorial support programmes, library services, study and counselling services and reading rooms. Students are encouraged to form study groups.

Ngengebulu says the study groups "help students to support each other. Instead of studying on their own in their own private place, students can

now share information. The support of the tutors also helps a great deal."

But SRC member Thabo Sanyame says the centre instructors fail to overcome some age-old problems of classroom learning: "There should be a good relationship between the learner and the tutor. At the moment there is some distance between us."

But other students say the centre

has helped them "make sense of studying". Sipho Khumalo, a policeman, dropped his police science and law courses two years ago with Technikon SA because "we never did much there".

Linda Mkhathwa agrees: "There wasn't much support and I felt I was wasting my time and money. Here the classes are much more interesting. The lecturer doesn't wait for the official assignments to come from head office in Pretoria."

The Johannesburg centre offers 20 tutorials per week and the number of courses may increase in the course of the year, says co-ordinator Nthokozi Mthembu. Last year, the centre offered 30 tutorials per week and this increased to 45 by the end of the year, as exams approached.

The centre has six faculties — arts, science, theology, education, law and social sciences. But Mkhathwa and Khumalo say the resources provided by the centre are still insufficient.

Mthembu says the centre's location in the middle of town is also a problem because of growing perceptions that the inner city is dangerous. "We would like to turn this into a multi-racial centre. But the perception of the inner city as a haven for criminals must end," she says.

Student Malekwa Pilane says the biggest challenge is mastering the self-discipline needed for success as a part-time distance-education student. "You have no formal timetable as such. You need self-discipline."

But, she says, for dedicated students, the centre provides a venue, class instruction and greater interaction. "You are not just working; you are enriching yourself at the same time."

# Small firms 'hurt training initiatives by poaching'

Primarashni Pillay

MAINLY major companies are investing in skills training in higher education, while smaller companies are instead poaching graduates, says Spoornet bureau manager Danie Langauge.

He was speaking at a workshop in Braamfontein on community service in higher education on Friday. The workshop, organised by the Joint Education Trust, was geared towards the involvement of the private sector. Further workshops will be held with labour, student and higher education institu-

tions. Later this year the trust will make policy recommendations to government, which is looking into the community service by graduates.

Recently the National Youth Commission said that community service for graduates should be voluntary.

Langauge explained that while major companies invested in the training of young people in higher education institutions by, among others, sponsoring bridging programmes, "smaller companies wait until the people are qualified and then poach them. There are some excep-

DD 16/3/98

tions with smaller companies. However, big companies can't retain graduates," he said.

Monique Adams of Anglo American's graduate recruitment section stressed that smaller businesses must try to assist with graduate training.

The problem was compounded by some overseas companies which aimed to assimilate graduates "who have an African experience", without making a deep-rooted investment in education in SA.

For community service in higher education to be effective, there had to be partnerships be-

DD 16/3/98

tween organisations as well as a transfer of skills, she said. Adams cautioned that community service should be a "desirable opportunity" for students as opposed to something that is "obligatory and annoying".

Margie Keeton of Anglo American and De Beers Chairman's Fund said that higher education institutions that were involved in community service should form partnerships with the community. The academics and the students must benefit educationally, while the community must gain developmental benefits.

## GOLD FIELDS PROPERTY COMPANY LIMITED

(Registration number 01/01078/06) (GFP)

## RAND LEASES

RAND LEASES PROPERTIES LIMITED (Registration number 78/00870/06) (RLP)

### Restructuring of GFP and RLP

#### 1. THE RESTRUCTURING

Further to the recent joint cautionary announcements by GFP and RLP, Capital Alliance Bank Limited is authorised to announce that, subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions precedent, agreement in principle has been reached in terms of which GFP will:

# Role of SA NGOs in

# landmine ban lauded

DD 16/3/98

Josey Ballenger

SA's nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) played a leading role in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines which culminated in a treaty signed by 122 countries and winning the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, defence and foreign affairs officials said at the weekend.

And Wiig of the Norwegian Embassy in Pretoria gave out Nobel peace prize certificates to organisations under the umbrella group, which included the Ceasfire Campaign, Oxfam SA, the Anglican Church Group for Environmental Monitoring and Community Agency for Social Enquiry.

Arneson executive chairman Ron Haywood said on behalf of Defence Minister Joe Modise: "We can be proud that our government in February 1997 gave practical effect to the International Committee of the Red Cross plea by banning the use, development, production and stockpiling of antipersonnel landmines with immediate effect. And I can state unequivocally that government was able to inform in reaching this decision by the efforts of the SA campaign to ban landmines."

Haywood said the SA National Defence Force's destruction last year of 243 423 mines was "far ahead" of the terms of the

DD 16/3/98

United Nations convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of landmines, which provided for their destruction within four years after the convention's entry into force.

About 18 000 SANDF stockpiled landmines are being kept, however, for training purposes in detecting, clearing and destroying the weapons, of which 5 000 are "live" and the remainder "dummies".

Speaking on behalf of Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad, deputy director-general Abdul Minty credited SA NGOs with taking the lead in uniting African nations throughout treaty negotiations — and paid tribute to African countries "for supporting us without conditions".

"There is a perception that Africa remains unable to solve its own conflicts. We moved quickly to the forefront. Africa realised only through collective action would a ban on ... these indiscriminate weapons materialise," he said. Tens of thousands have been killed or afflicted by landmines, mostly in Africa.

Minty said the treaty was unique in that it was a complete ban and included clauses on "humanitarian aspects", such as reintegrating victims into society. SA was the third country to sign the convention in Ottawa in Canada in December.

# Graduates face mass call-up

## Even arts students face year of community service

### POLITICAL STAFF

The Government is examining a proposal for a national community service scheme that could require a wide range of university and technician graduates - including doctors, engineers, lawyers, architects, accountants, surveyors and even arts graduates - to do a year of work in poor communities across the country.

The plan drawn up by Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma for doctors to do a year of community service as part of their training is regarded as a test of the feasibility of the much wider scheme, Govern-

ment sources say.

This weekend Dr Zuma revealed that compulsory national service for graduating doctors from July this year was likely to be extended to pharmacists and dentists at their own request.

Sapa reports that while visiting the Transkei University's medicines and health sciences faculty, Dr Zuma said the scheme had impressed her Cabinet colleagues so much that they wanted to introduce it in their departments for other professionals in the public service.

"But what fascinates me is that student pharmacists and dentists have confronted me to complain that I have discriminated against them

by not involving them in the community service scheme," said Dr Zuma.

"I have taken note of their concerns."

"The implications of extending the scheme to other health professionals will first be examined thoroughly before a decision is taken one way or the other."

Officials in Dr Zuma's department have indicated that many other graduating students in the medical field could soon be drawn into the scheme.

These are likely to include physiotherapists, occupational therapists, midwives and medical researchers.

Officials say the biggest obstacle

standing in the way of an all-embracing national service plan for all tertiary graduates is the huge cost.

"These people will have to be paid, fed, housed and transported to the areas where they will be needed most."

"It is not a charitable arrangement," one official said.

"But the feeling is that in an unequally developed country, with limited resources, we must make better and more rational use of those students who have benefited from the publicly subsidised system of tertiary education."

"The public is entitled to get something back for the huge subsidies that go to universities and tech-

nikons.

To make the proposal more feasible and attractive, supporters have suggested two alternatives.

One would be based on a volunteer system which would offer some benefit, possibly in the form of an additional professional qualification, to those who volunteered.

Another would be based on the call-up lottery system that was used for military training in the early apartheid years.

Under this scheme a limited number of names would be drawn randomly from a full list of all graduates, depending on funds available and the number of trained people whose services were required.

(54) ART 16/3/98

(41)

## NEWS FEATURE

# Universities exclude the poor

By Edward Cottle

Recently much has been said

about the matric failure rate. Nothing, however, has been said about the thousands who did pass, but who will not gain access to institutions of higher learning because of lack of funds.

The effect, particularly on working class communities, is surely devastating – there will be rising unemployment, poverty and increasing crime.

Universities plan to take stringent measures to recover millions in student debt and are also set to increase their fees. It is clear university funding strategies wish to sustain themselves on an unworkable system of fees.

## Joint campaigns

In order to achieve this, the student representative council and administration of the University of Western Cape, for example, have agreed to campaign jointly to educate students about their financial responsibilities.

This is indicative of an approach which no longer sees access to higher education for the poor as fundamental. The crisis is making life unbearable for students and is clearly wasting an enormous amount of resources.

Universities are being reduced to "revolving doors of exclusion" as administrations and student organisations willfully implement principles of

the Growth, Employment and Redistribution programme at university level.

The approach that places emphasis on student payment is rooted in a new rightist ideology commonly called neo-liberalism.

The World Bank has been a major exporter of this ideology, which calls on governments to cut expenditure on education and move to an emphasis on private provision of education.

The implications are clear – the masses of working-class people must not enter the higher education system. What is the rationale behind this?

Over the past 20 years the world economy has experienced serious crises like that in Asia at the moment. These crises have led to high unemployment and also to a decline in opportunities for profitable investment.

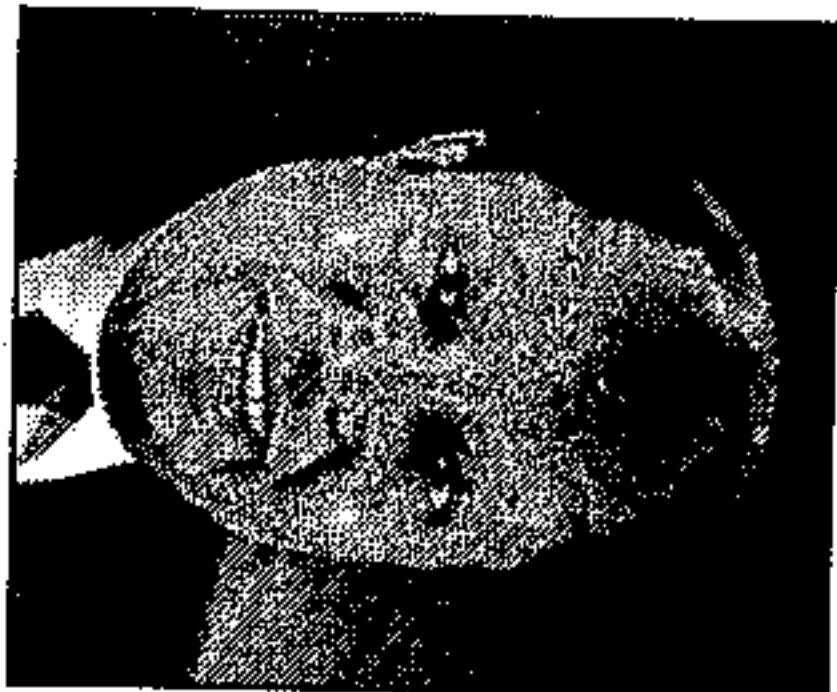
State services have therefore come under severe pressure for privatisation as a new area of profitable investment for capital. This is why neo-liberals want to convince us to pay for "better" privatised services.

The capitalists, furthermore, do not want to be taxed for the provision of education, health, welfare and so on as this will eat into their profits.

In other words, the working class must pay for a system in which the few can maintain their lavish lifestyles. This is the essence of Gear.

A shocking revelation is that the new

Neo-liberals manipulating state to privatise education



Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu.

Higher Education Act of 1997 is silent on how higher education will be funded.

This policy is left entirely in the hands of the ministers of education and finance.

By being silent on this, the Government is not committing itself to any programme to expand the higher education system, redress past inequalities or fund needy students.

Even the much talked of student financial aid scheme was cut by R50 million last year. The Act, however, makes clear provision for private higher education institutions.

The past few years have seen student organisations respond in a manner that has not united students nationally. Rather, students at various institutions have fought separate battles.

In order for the student movement to make a real impact on transforming ter-

tiary education, the South African Union of Student Representative Councils must lead a serious national campaign of mass struggle.

Central to such a campaign must be a set of demands that will unite students nationally and win the support of the community. These demands should be that:

- Government must underwrite the student debt – by underwriting the debt, universities will immediately be subsidised until they receive the state subsidy in April;

- A higher state subsidy – with the decline in subsidies, universities have been forced to privatise services, limit and retrench academic staff, limit research, increase student fees and limit access;

- A national bursary scheme – it is clear the higher education system is not sustainable on the basis of student fees. All needy students should be eligible for a bursary through which they are indebted to the state.

Students will be expected to pay back society for its investment by working for the state as part of national community service. Students who want to work for the private sector must repay the full cost of the bursary;

- A national community service – this will be a means for doctors, teach-

ers, lawyers, engineers and so on to work for the general upliftment of our communities.

Graduates will be expected to work for the state at a living wage for a period equivalent to the cost of their bursary. This would be similar to the contract thousand of teachers were given in return for their state bursaries; and

- An education tax on business – the funding of higher education cannot only be through taxes from the working class and middle classes.

While business clearly benefits from the state subsidies, which produce the very people they employ, business is reluctant to invest in the higher education system.

In other words, the state provides the private sector with the skilled graduates it employs to make profits.

An education tax would therefore be an instrument to compel the private sector to fund a national bursary scheme and increase the subsidy allocation to universities.

This approach understands that to transform higher education for the benefit of society as a whole, we have to pressure the capitalist class and its new representative in power, the ANC.

*(The writer is an associate member of the Student League at the University of Western Cape.)*



# R91 600 to aid Univen students

By Khathu Mamalla

THE University of Venda has raised R91 600 to assist needy students at the institution.

A fundraising function held at the weekend was attended by, among others, Premier Mathews' Phosa and Northern Province agriculture MEC and Univen chancellor Mr Cyril Ramaphosa failed to turn up.

University spokesman Mr Waldemar Budeli said yesterday the fundraising campaign would continue in Pietersburg, Johannesburg and Nelspruit. Phosa donated R5 100 to better the R5 000 contribution made by Univen vice-chancellor and principal Professor Gesler Nkondo.

Phosa urged black intellectuals and the community in general to sacrifice luxury and invest more in education for a brighter future.

## Problems

He said universities and other tertiary institutions were experiencing serious financial problems, making it difficult for some to continue with their work.

He said there were students who could not meet their financial obligations.

However, Phosa said: "I must hasten to add that scenes of students marching and demanding financial aid while driving VW Polos and having cell-phones are not uncommon."

"I was recently told that some students are installing satellite dishes in their rooms. We do not have a problem with people who do that but we should not all rush for the limited funds."

Challenging black graduates to assist their universities, Phosa said problems at black universities were compounded by the fact that few of the alumni were rich like their counterparts at Wits, RAU and University of Cape Town.

# Govt willing to give support to medical varsity

(549) (911)

*Sowetan 17/3/98*

By Ido Lekota

THE Government could allow the Medical University of Southern Africa – currently in financial difficulties – to close because the institution had a major role to play in redressing the shortage of black doctors in the country, Parliament was told yesterday.

Deputy director-general of health Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba told the health portfolio committee that the Government had no intention of “downgrading or closing Medunsa”.

He said, instead, his department “would do everything to support the institution”.

A task team comprising health and education officials had been established to look at ways of supporting the institution.

This was because Medunsa had made an important contribution towards producing more black medical graduates needed in the country than

any other institution.

Ntsaluba’s assurance came in the wake of reports that Medunsa was in dire financial difficulties and could probably close. The situation was further compounded by subsidy c-/99 Budget. He said his department had confidence in the future role of Medunsa.

He also told the portfolio committee that while quotas for admissions of black students at medical schools appeared not to be in the pipeline, institutions which did not admit enough students to redress the current shortage of black doctors would face penalties in the form of subsidy cuts.

“There definitely needs to be a correlation between the subsidies given to the institution and their output in this regard. It is clear that within the context of national objectives the institutions should be admitting more students,” said Ntsaluba.

# Row as Cape students (114) expel staff from campus

**MOSES MACKAY**

STAFF REPORTER

**Western Cape College of Education students in Kuils River "expelled" staff after they called the police in response to protests on the campus.**

Acting rector Lennie Smith, senior vice-rector Z Siyengo, vice-rector Z Fillus and 109 lecturers were ordered to leave the campus on Tuesday.

The protests were sparked by students being told they could not stay in residences during the holidays.

On Monday, there were clashes between police and students who held staff hostage, demanding they be allowed to stay.

Police arrested two students, but released them after student leaders persuaded Mr Smith, Mr Siyengo and Mr Fillus to intervene.

The students said they would not go back to lectures until their demands were met. No classes have taken place since Friday.

Student representative council spokesman Peter Dumisa claims that the staff met at an unknown venue to discuss the future of the college and intended closing it and re-opening it later in the year.

Tony Eaton, media liaison for the Western Cape Education Department, said it was standard practice for training college students to go home for the holidays. Students wishing to stay in residence were required to pay board and lodging.

Mr Eaton said the consequences of students expelling staff were under discussion. The department strongly deplored the undemocratic attempt to use force to settle a disagreement, especially by students supposedly preparing to become teachers.

# Foreign students charged tuition fees in dollars

Primarashni Pillay

BD 20/3/98 (54)

UNDERGRADUATE and honours students from countries outside the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are being charged international fees in US dollars by the University of Cape Town.

Lesley Shackleton, director of the university's international academic programmes said the university was charging these fees as the government had warned that non-SADC international students should not benefit from subsidies.

At present local and international students are subsidised by the government. The removal of subsidies is a response to the financial difficulties of higher edu-

cation institutions. Fees introduced at the university this year for non-SADC foreign undergraduate and honours students range from \$5 200 to \$5 400 a year.

"SADC students pay the same as SA students. International students doing masters and doctoral degrees will pay the same as local students at present."

Shackleton said last year the university has had 1 630 international students, of whom 264 came from Europe, 83 from the US and Canada, 90 from Australasia, 114 from non-SADC countries and 1 064 from SADC countries.

Foreign student numbers at the University of Natal are up about 15% on last year, says

Roshen Kishun, director of the university's international office.

This translated into more than 850 students from 62 countries. These students were charged the same fees as local students, but paid an additional administration fee of about R1 000.

At the University of the Witwatersrand more than 750 of 18 000 students are foreign. About 40% are from Europe, the US, Asia and Australia, says Kirstin Nussgruber, head of the university's international office. "While government still subsidises these students, they are charged administration fees. However, when government withdraws the subsidy we'll have to charge as much as 3,5 times the fees."

South Africa's institutions have to work together if they are now going the way of Africa's crumbling universities, Kweesi Prah, a Ghanaian professor, tells Carol Campbell

# The key to our universities' success is sharing

(54) AACT 21/3/98

Shortly after the first agreement to end Sudan's civil war was signed in Addis Ababa in 1972, an old high school in Juba, the regional capital of the south, was turned into a university.

It was a conciliatory gesture by the Arab-dominated Sudanese government to the Africans of the south, aimed at cementing the fragile peace between the once-warring groups.

Today the University of Juba has the dubious honour of being possibly the poorest university in Africa.

It is a broken-down mish-mash of old classrooms with an out-of-date library and little modern equipment.

But, while civil war has resumed, students continue to cross the vast plains of the south to the one place where they can be educated and so, they hope, escape poverty.

Kweesi Prah, a sociologist and anthropologist at the University of the Western Cape, lectured at Juba from 1981 to 1985. He says he now appreciates working in a reasonably stable and politically open environment like South Africa.

"South Africa has a huge advantage over the rest of Africa - some of its universities have resources.

"And in this respect these institutions are on a par with the best in the world," he says.

Where this country lags behind Africa is in the quality and qualifications of some of its academics.

"Many of the people working in South Africa's universities have been frightfully isolated and this is reflected in the quality of the ideas they generate," says Professor Prah.

The country's apartheid history means physical resources are not evenly distributed and the former black institutions are fast sinking into the same black hole that has swallowed higher-education institutions across the continent.

He says the deterioration of Africa's universities is based on one simple fact: economics.

Professor Prah, a Ghanaian, has worked in nine African countries and has also lectured in Germany, the Netherlands, China and Britain.

He has witnessed how stagnant economies have failed to provide jobs for the trained professionals produced by Africa's universities.

"There are university graduates in West Africa who are bus drivers.

"Those who want to benefit from their education often have to leave the country," he says.



ANDREW NIGRAM

Professor Kweesi Prah, a Ghanaian sociologist and anthropologist at the University of the Western Cape, says he appreciates working in a reasonably stable and politically open environment like South Africa

Those who do stay are invariably not appreciated.

Author Andrea Useem says a full professor in Kenya earns about \$460 (R2 300) a month and, in Uganda, about \$1 000 (R5 000) a month. In South Africa a professor of similar standing earns about R9 000 a month.

"Look around the universities of Europe and America and you will find a great many good African academics," says Professor Prah.

"Nobody wants to work in an environment of famine and war, or where they do not earn enough to put food on the table."

South African universities need to share their resources to avoid deterring, he says.

The Government does not have the resources to fund former black institutions at the same level as their white counterparts were in the past. Professor Prah, like the rector of

the University of the Western Cape, Cecil Abrahams, believes regional universities with unified bureaucratic structures can keep South Africa's universities internationally competitive and benefit the economy.

"Apartheid created a division that was economically unsound. Look at the University of Natal - campuses for whites in Durban and Pietermaritzburg and between them a different institution for Indians (the University

of Durban-Westville). It could easily be one and avoid so much duplication and unnecessary cost."

The UWC is plagued by a debt so great that Professor Abrahams has talked of closing the institution, while its close neighbours, Stellenbosch and Cape Town universities, quietly enjoy their inherited wealth.

Instead of two medical schools and three faculties of arts or science, all within a few kilometres of one another,

Professor Prah suggests sharing staff and facilities.

"This happens all over the world. The universities of London, Beijing, Delhi, New York, Paris, California and Massachusetts all have campuses scattered over a wide area."

The idea is not new to Africa. Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho's universities once shared a bureaucratic, and Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania once shared one university with a

campus in each country. There were also joint West African research institutions during the colonial era.

"Petry nationalism - people who wanted their own flags and anthems - destroyed a system that suited Africa's economic needs," says Professor Prah.

Sharing resources also means students from different ethnic groups will be able to mix, fostering greater understanding of ethnic differences.

Breaking down the barriers imposed by apartheid has to be government driven, says Professor Prah.

"Somebody has to crack the whip."

Bheki Khumalo, spokesman for Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, said the minister would be making an announcement about regional co-operation between universities.

"We don't want to force this thing, but we do believe that universities, among themselves, should co-operate with one another."

The frustration of students who cannot afford fees, which has come to a head on campuses like the University of the Western Cape and Fort Hare in the Eastern Cape, is not isolated to South Africa.

In Kenya's *Weekly Review*, commentator John Mutha wrote that massive demand for higher education and the mushrooming of universities in Africa had led to "the emergence of structures that purport to be institutions of higher learning, but which are, in reality, empty shells that cannot do more than keep students around for four or more years."

"This is happening throughout Africa and the only way to solve the problem is through economic growth and the creation of jobs," says Professor Prah.

He believes that since the end of colonialism more Africans have had access to education than ever before, and that to turn people away from education now is to "stop growth in a society".

But war, famine and corruption have left Africa's economies in such a shambles that countries have not been able to afford the expansion of their universities' facilities.

"It's got so bad in Nigeria that students even threaten staff to give them qualifications."

"It's a chicken-and-egg situation," says Professor Prah. Although there are signs that some of South Africa's universities are "fraying at the edges", with planning and care the country can avoid deterioration.

# Wits' s Bundy to be robed

Primarashni Pillay (54)

WITS University's first democratically elected vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Colin Bundy, will be officially robed by chancellor Judge Richard Goldstone on Wednesday. More than 1 000 guests, including government and other personalities will attend the ceremony.

Bundy was elected in August last year by the Wits Council after the Wits transformation forum and senate accepted the recommendation of the senior appointments selection committee.

Before moving to Wits, Bundy was vice-rector (academic) at the University of the Western Cape. Until 1991 he held the joint chair of history at the universities of Cape Town and the Western Cape.

An internationally respected historian, Bundy received his history honours degree at Wits and is an alumnus of the universities of Natal and Oxford, where he gained his doctorate in history in 1976.

## PUBLISHING

### A LEGAL NOTICE

### CAN BE A TRIAL.

### SO PUT US ON THE CASE.

Why not take some of the rigmarole out of your legal proceedings? Let us administer your legal notices. Once we're on the case, you won't have to do any of the paperwork. We'll do all the hard labour for you.

- As well as placing legal notices in Business Day and the Sunday Times, we will forward your notices to the Afrikaans press for publication.
- We will supply the Revenue Stamps and debit your account.
- Your account will be debited when we forward the notices to the Government Gazette in Pretoria.
- Tearsheets will be mailed on the day of publication.
- For your convenience, our messenger will collect legal notices on Wednesdays.
- Accounts will be opened immediately for attorneys.

Given the compelling evidence in favour of letting us handle your legal notices, we rest our case. And recommend you accept a little bit of legal aid, now.

**Business Day**  
NEWS WORTH KNOWING

CALL DOMINIQUE ON (011) 280-3235 OR 280-3000

its own advisers for SAA's restructuring and have access to the transaction as

met unions re?

# Students hold college staff over holiday row

**MOSES MACKAY**  
STAFF REPORTER

The Western Cape College of Education campus is tense after clashes yesterday between police and students who held staff hostage, demanding that they be allowed to stay in residences during the holidays. Police arrested two students on

the Kullis River campus, but released them after student leaders persuaded acting rector Lennie Smith and two vice-rectors to intervene.

A Cape Argus news team was also "detained" on the campus for more than three hours by students. More than 20 administrators and 109 lecturers were held hostage in the administration block for five hours before police rescued them. Student leaders

said last night they would continue their protest today.

The trouble began on Friday when a request by students to be allowed to stay in the residences during the Easter and September holidays was turned down. Glen Snyman, the students representative council media officer, said management had asked the students to leave the hostels during the holidays, although they had

been allowed to stay in the past.

Management told students that the Western Cape Education Department would not pay for students' accommodation during the holidays. The college closes on Friday and opens on April 15.

Mr Smith told students the college was not in a financial position to pay for their stay in hostels during the holidays.

ARG 24/3/98 (54)

# Judge Cameron is elected chairman of Wits council

Mr Justice Edwin Cameron has been elected chairman of the council of Witwatersrand University.

His election to the university's governing body was made on Friday, Wits said in a statement released in Johannesburg yesterday.

An experienced academic and widely respected jurist, Judge Cameron has acted as chairman of numerous committees of inquiries.

Wits added in the statement:

*Star 24/3/98*  
"The election of Judge Cameron, a former professor of law at Wits, gives further strength to the university's commitment to human rights.

"He joins the team of Judge Richard Goldstone (chancellor) and Professor Colin Bundy (vice-chancellor) in leading the university into the next century."

Bundy was quoted in the statement as saying: "As a leading external member of council he has taken on this additional responsibility of chairman of

*(54)*  
council, and Wits considers itself very fortunate indeed to have him accept this role."

Judge Cameron succeeded Mr Justice Fikile Bam, president of the Land Claims Court and chairman of the previous council, which ceased to exist in September, and the acting chairman since then, Derek Cooper.

He went to Oxford University to study law and returned to South Africa and lectured at the Wits School of Law while doing

an LLB through Unisa.

Judge Cameron returned to Oxford University in 1981 where he won the Vinerian Scholarship as the most outstanding law student studying for the BCL (higher grade in law).

He returned to Wits in 1986 and later became professor at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies.

Judge Cameron left Wits in 1994 when he was appointed to the then Supreme Court and is now a High Court judge. - Sapa



# UCT aims for giant telescope in Sutherland

(54) ARG 25/3/98

University of Cape Town astronomers are among scientists and engineers involved in a bid to build one of the world's most powerful telescopes in Sutherland.

According to an article in the university's Monday Paper, the telescope would be similar to one built in the United States recently by the University of Texas and several partners. It is one of the three largest telescopes in the world, with a mirror diameter of 10 metres.

The instrument is the result of advances in technology, which make it possible to build powerful telescopes at a fraction of the cost of similar telescopes in the past.

Professor Brian Warrner, head of UCT's astronomy department, said there was a need to site a similar telescope in the southern hemisphere and negotiations had been under way for the past two years to see if the South African Large Telescope (Salt) could be a copy of the Texas device. - Sapa

# No ivory towers as universities face challenges of future

WHILE I am the first to be installed as a result of this process, I am not the first to have been offered the post. That distinction belongs to Sam Nolutshungu, and were it not for his tragic death last year, it is he who would have been on the platform this evening.

I knew Sam, 25 years ago, when we were both teaching in Manchester; and I have vivid memories of a car journey we made across the Pennines, returning from a conference in Sheffield. We swapped memories of childhood in the Eastern Cape. He in Fort Beaufort, I in Alice — physically almost next door, but sociologically and experientially worlds apart.

I want to remember Sam and to honour him — and I am secure in the knowledge the entire community of this university will wish to do so too. For this reason, I am pleased to announce the creation of an annual postgraduate scholarship in International Relations, named for Sam Nolutshungu.

This ceremony takes place at a decisive moment in the history of SA higher education. A new Higher Education Act was gazetted three months ago, the culmination of several years of enquiry, debate and policy formulation. The new act quite unmistakably provides a new context, a new framework and new set of expectations for higher education institutions:

- There is an expectation that institutions will broaden access to higher education;
- That institutions will have a wider range of entry and exit points to and from higher education, and they will provide for more mobility within the system;
- That institutions will become more efficient in their use of the resources available to them;
- That universities will engage more energetically in partnerships — with each other, with other institutions of learning, with nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector — and that such partnership will include research and training; and;

The new vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, Colin Bundy, maps out his vision of the future in his inauguration speech delivered last night

□ That universities will be more responsive to national socio-economic needs.

The last of these takes us to the heart of a crucial issue: the relationship between a university and the society in which it operates.

In SA we tend to focus rather exclusively upon local issues and trends, and to take for granted that these are national trends and issues. Often this means that we fail to recognise that they are in fact local variants of international phenomena. This, emphatically, is the case with respect to the expectations of higher education.

The features anticipated, or required, of our universities are precisely those which have had such an effect on universities internationally over the past 20 years or so. Some aspects of globalisation take a little longer to arrive in SA: television was one; McDonald's hamburgers another; and so is the cluster of changes common to university systems right across the industrialised world.

In the UK, western Europe, Australia, Canada and the state-funded universities in the US, there is a unmistakable commonality of experience in the past two decades. Universities have become more cash-strapped; more involved in applied and commissioned research; more conscious of their achievements as producers of useful knowledge.

There have been perhaps two governing ideas shaping these developments. The first is conveyed in the phrase "the knowledge society" — or, sometimes, "the knowledge economy". It suggests that in the modern global economy ideas and the ability to manipulate them count for more than the traditional factors of production.

Universities are seen as a major source of useful ideas, as knowledge factories. They are the mechanism by which a nation develops "smart workers", or in-

B0 26/3/98 (54)



BUNDY

creases its "human capital". The second governing idea is closely related to the first. It holds in the phrase "the knowledge society" — or, sometimes, "the knowledge economy". It suggests that in the modern global economy ideas and the ability to manipulate them count for more than the traditional factors of production.

Universities are seen as a major source of useful ideas, as knowledge factories. They are the mechanism by which a nation develops "smart workers", or in-

looked to on the one hand to address issues relating to poverty, poor schooling, rapid urbanisation, a backlog in science and technology, rural underdevelopment — the ravages of apartheid. On the other hand, it is required to provide the cutting edge to economic and technological capacities — be a pacemaker in the body politic in the testing arena of global competition.

Universities are deeply implicated in the modern state: they are bound up in, and key agents of,

nomically, cutting costs, becoming more entrepreneurial. My concern is not that the expectations of SA universities are too broad: but that they are too narrow. The expectations confronting SA universities are not local nor peculiar, nor unprecedented. On the contrary, they echo very precisely the demands placed on other university systems over the past couple of decades.

And the results have been uneven. Yes, universities have become more efficient and more entrepreneurial. They have graduated very large numbers of students. They have continued to produce high-calibre research.

Yet these gains have carried a price tag. A mounting body of evidence suggests these undoubted achievements may have been won at the expense of longer-term intellectual goals. Current enthusiasm for the "value added" by university education may conceal values lost.

Wits should be deeply involved in the social, political and economic restructuring of our society. It will actively seek partnerships — with other educational institutions, with NGOs and with the private sector. It will continue to try to broaden access to students and to recruit, develop and retain staff from all sectors of society. It will do everything in its power to become more efficient, to use its resources to their maximum effect.

Wits, if it both meets and transcends the expectations of society, will clearly not be an ivory tower. Yet nor will it be a mere service station, providing fuel and tune-ups to engines of social development and economic growth. It will be a laboratory of the learning society. This is an ambitious agenda.

We in higher education must work forward, must commit ourselves to working in universities critically engaged with society. We must accept the most daunting expectation of all: that universities may be the last, the best hope that society has for learning about itself.

I am quite happy that universities should engage with socio-economic needs: but I am made anxious and uncomfortable when those needs are cut from a single bolt of ideological cloth, to patterns designed elsewhere.

Let me put it this way. I have listed certain expectations of SA universities — that they should admit more students, make their offerings more relevant, ensure their graduates are more employable, help solve crucial national problems, and do all this more eco-

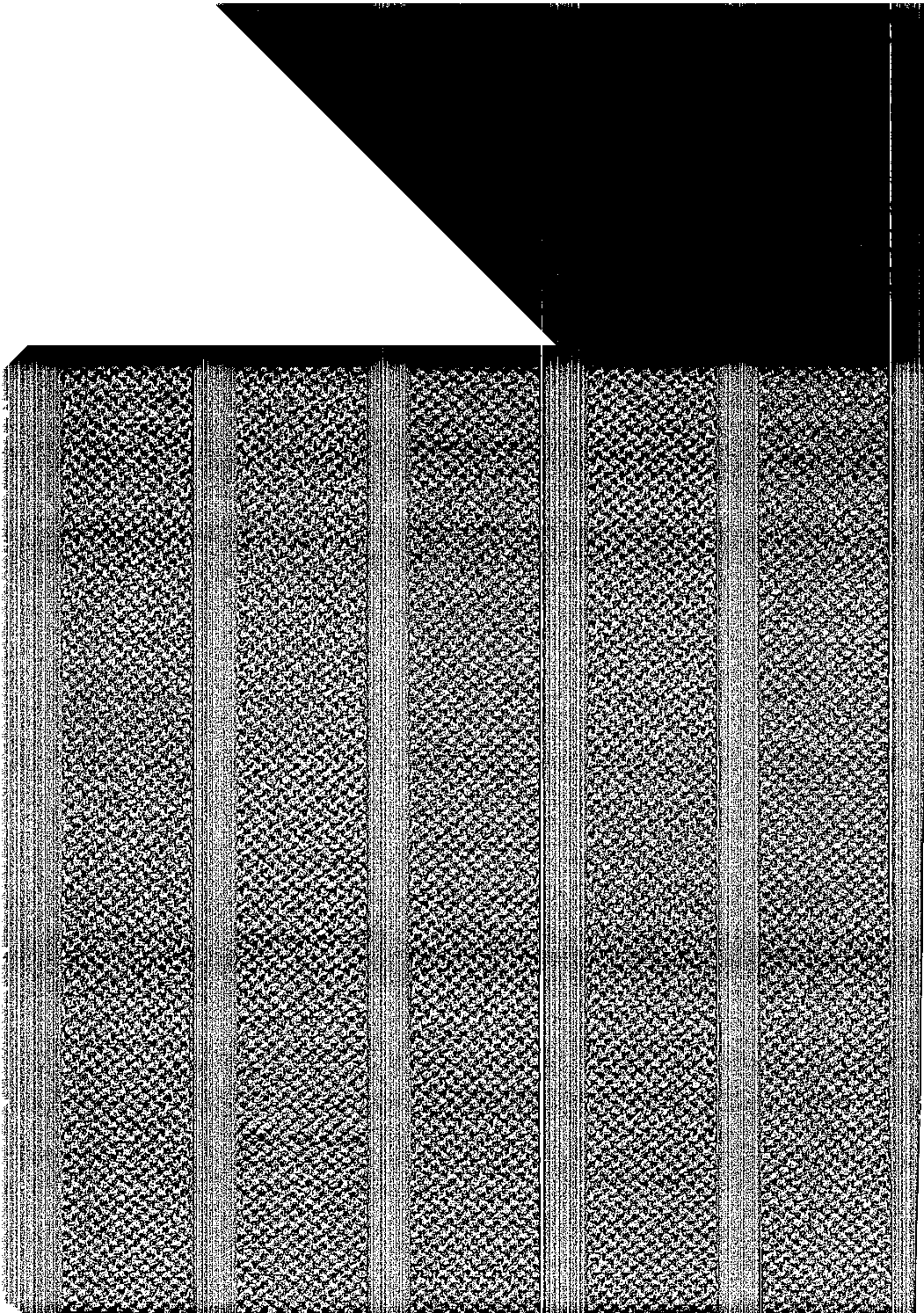
nomically, cutting costs, becoming more entrepreneurial. My concern is not that the expectations of SA universities are too broad: but that they are too narrow. The expectations confronting SA universities are not local nor peculiar, nor unprecedented. On the contrary, they echo very precisely the demands placed on other university systems over the past couple of decades.

And the results have been uneven. Yes, universities have become more efficient and more entrepreneurial. They have graduated very large numbers of students. They have continued to produce high-calibre research.

Yet these gains have carried a price tag. A mounting body of evidence suggests these undoubted achievements may have been won at the expense of longer-term intellectual goals. Current enthusiasm for the "value added" by university education may conceal values lost.

Wits should be deeply involved in the social, political and economic restructuring of our society. It will actively seek partnerships — with other educational institutions, with NGOs and with the private sector. It will continue to try to broaden access to students and to recruit, develop and retain staff from all sectors of society. It will do everything in its power to become more efficient, to use its resources to their maximum effect.

Wits, if it both meets and transcends the expectations of society, will clearly not be an ivory tower. Yet nor will it be a mere service station, providing fuel and tune-ups to engines of social development and economic growth. It will be a laboratory of the learning society. This is an ambitious agenda.



## Mandela pleased with progress against corruption

President Nelson Mandela says he is happy with the progress the police and the Government are making in fighting crime and corruption.

"Whatever difficulties we faced, we are now on top of the situation," he said at the installation of Professor Colin Bundy as the new vice-chancellor and principal at the University of the Witwatersrand last night.

Although 700 policemen had been arrested in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng for hijacking, murder and corruption, he said, it was important that they had been arrested by fellow policemen.

"The overwhelming majority of police are good men and women with impeccable integrity," Mandela said.

He said many members of the present government had not had the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills to govern, but operated on a trial-and-error basis.

"We came in on the moral high ground to eliminate corruption. Little did we know that our own people who fought for transformation would themselves yield to corruption," he said. — Sapa

ANDREAS VLACHAKIS



In a moment of... Professor Colin Bundy is installed as vice-chancellor of Wits by President Nelson Mandela last night.

## Bundy takes reins at Wits and calls for imagination, vision

(54) Star 26/7/98

By JACQUI REEVES  
Education Reporter

More than two years of heated debate and internal squabbles at one of South Africa's premier universities finally ended last night with the installation of Professor Colin Bundy as the new vice-chancellor of Wits University.

The battle to replace Professor Robert Charlton became protracted and messy when Professor William Makgoba, the man earmarked for the post, became embroiled in a scandal over his curriculum vitae in 1996. Months of allegations and counter-allegations that Makgoba embellished his CV finally ended when he resigned his candidacy.

The process began again, with Professor Sam Nolutshungu, Professor June Sinclair and Professor Njabulo Ndebele as the three contenders.

Wits officials heaved a sigh of relief when Nolutshungu was elected to the position, but the highly respected academic was never able to take up his new job. Nolutshungu withdrew from the position when he learnt he was suffering from a rare blood cancer.

His condition deteriorated rapidly and on August 12 last year, just seven months after he withdrew his nomination, Nolutshungu died.

Bundy last night announced the creation of a postgraduate scholarship in

international relations that will be named after Nolutshungu.

"I have discussed this with Veli, his widow, and she is pleased that his memorial will be an academic one, it is what he would have wished," Bundy said.

Bundy, the soft-spoken historian who gave up his vice-rectorship at the University of the Western Cape for Wits, said the installation was taking place at a decisive moment in the history of higher education in the country.

Although Bundy has an impressive academic history, many believe the new vice-chancellor's real strengths lie in his ability to bridge divides between different sectors of the campus.

For a man who has said he is committed to "academic life, growth and success", Bundy certainly has his work cut out for him.

As tertiary educational institutions continue to battle in the face of cuts in government funding, Bundy has set high goals for both Wits and tertiary educational institutions countrywide.

He stressed a need to broaden access to universities and the need for a wider range of entry and exit points to and from higher education.

Bundy called on academics to work with imagination and vision and to accept the daunting reality that universities may be the last best hope that society has for learning about itself.

# Probe to focus infant deaths

*soveton 26/3/98* (54)

By Mokgadi Pela

**A** NEW research unit focusing on maternal and child health has been set up jointly by the University of Pretoria and the Medical Research Council.

The unit will investigate why known solutions to health problems affecting pregnant women and infants, particularly in rural areas, are not being implemented.

It will also research ways in which effective healthcare strategies can be introduced.

The investigation will be headed by Professor Bob Pattinson of the University of Pretoria's Department of

Obstetrics and Gynaecology, who will work in collaboration with Professor Ian Hay from the Department of Paediatrics.

Based at Kalafong Hospital in Pretoria, the unit's research sites will include Mamelodi, Hammanskraal, Witbank and Middelburg.

"South Africa's infant mortality rate is four times higher than that of countries with comparable economies. How can it be that syphilis claims the lives of 10 percent of babies who die in rural areas in South Africa, when this disease is easy and cheap to screen and easy to treat?

Similarly, problems in labour, which can often be iden-

tified and prevented, are responsible for 30 percent of deaths of newborn babies in non-urban areas," Pattinson said.

"We have found there are many conditions which are readily treatable and preventable, but which are still major causes of severe complications and deaths, particularly at peripheral clinics, and district and regional hospitals.

"We will be exploring ways to introduce effective interventions, and hope to formulate proposals for healthcare strategies based on research results, which can be implemented by provincial and national health authorities and health workers," he said.

# Universities must ride the wave and market themselves better

WITH the advent of democracy, SA has become a popular choice for overseas students who want to study in this country and at the same time, observe social and political changes and experience "the spirit of Africa".

Various higher education institutions countrywide are showing a growth in the number of international students registered on their campuses.

Mostly students from countries under the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other parts of Africa are studying for full degrees. Those from other continents often choose to register for an academic semester and are fulfilling the study-abroad aspect of their home-university degrees.

Their home universities credit them for courses taken at SA institutions, thereby enhancing the standards prevalent at SA institutions.

Last year, Cape Town University had 264 students from Europe, 83 from the US and Canada, 90 from Australasia, 114 from non-SADC African countries and 1 064 from SADC countries.

At Natal University this year, there are 850 foreign students from 62 countries—an increase of

SA universities are becoming a popular study destination for foreign students, something to be encouraged because of the foreign currency they generate. Pramarashni Pillay looks at the campus trend

PD 27/9/96

(74)

For non-SADC students from other parts of Africa, paying fees which are the equivalent of American dollars will obviously come as a blow, but given the currencies of their respective countries, the question that must be asked is: is it cheaper for an African student to study in the UK or the US, or is it still cheaper to study in SA?

According to Roshen Kishun, the president of the International Education Association of SA, for an African student wanting to study a particular degree in the UK, it could cost about £11 000, excluding the student's accommodation and living expenses.

In the US, the tuition fees would be about \$10 000. Foreign students attending these universities are not subsidised and must pay the full degree costs.

The conclusion is that while it could become slightly more expensive than before for non-SADC students in Africa to study in SA, it would be expensive to study in the UK or the US, where African currencies perform dismally.

Asking non-SADC students to study in the UK and the US, paying the normal SA fees hardly dented their pockets.

The challenge then is for each SA higher-education institution to market itself in overseas countries by setting up international offices.

A paper presented to an education conference in Brisbane,

the communities we serve." When marketing their campuses, institutions need to focus on their uniqueness as well as the rich history of their regions.

For example, Natal University can market itself as the place from which world-famous activist Steve Biko got his degree, while Kwazulu-Natal as a whole can be promoted as the place where Mahatma Gandhi's career in social and political activism started.

SA institutions should not try to emulate European institutions, said Kishun. European students do not want to learn about Europe when they are in Africa. They should be exposed to issues affecting Africa.

The benefits to SA are financial in a direct and indirect sense, but there is a further spinoff—down the line those foreign students could engage in business, trade and investment in SA because of their links with the country.

SA institutions could again follow in these footsteps.

However, they need to treat foreign students graciously, as well as contribute to making their living conditions satisfactory so that these students will serve as ambassadors when they return to their home countries.

Australia, in 1995 estimated that about 1.5-million university students worldwide studied outside their home country. With each student spending an estimated \$18 000 a year on tuition and living expenses, the market is valued at about \$27bn.

Recognising the potential in this, representatives of various Canadian universities became salesmen, marketing their institutions when they accompanied Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien on a trade mission to the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand last year.

## History

According to Kishun, SA institutions need to tell the world that the country has some excellent universities whose faculties are internationally recognised, and whose top graduates can compete with anyone in the world.

"We need to say also that we are world class, that we produce excellent results and that the programmes we teach are relevant to

# Africanising SA's Universities

**T**HE TIMIDITY of African intellectuals has resulted in the appalling serialisation and freezing of the discourse on the Africanisation of tertiary educational institutions in South Africa. As a result, the process of transformation has become a catch phrase, experiencing a paralysis of both analysis and practice - an esoteric issue confined to academics and wicked politicians which has long ceased to be an issue of national import.

This article is intended to invigorate and revitalize the debates on transformation of tertiary educational institutions, with special reference to Africanisation. The contention advanced is that despite the apparent ritual opposition from some quarters and disillusionment from other quarters about the process itself, universities in South Africa must Africanise.

The need for universities in South Africa to Africanise is predicated on two core considerations. Firstly, universities have a crucial role to play in the development process of any country. Under apartheid colonialism, South African universities were the ideological handmaiden of the oppressive, exploitative, vile and dehumanising system. With the changes taking place, universities have to adapt so as to inaugurate and reflect a new consciousness and sensibility. Secondly, since South Africa is overwhelmingly African in the indigenous sense of the word, there should be no contradiction between Africanisation and democratisation of institutions of higher learning.

**TEBOHO LEBAKENG**

discusses the need for the

Africanisation of universities  
and how some of the problems  
that may be encountered in  
doing this, can be overcome.

Why an African university? At first the idea of an African university sounds contradictory. This is because most of us were brought up with the understanding that universities are places of higher learning where knowledge is produced without bias, stored uncontaminated and disseminated without fear or favour. The reality is a far cry from this. It is only on the basis of their own identity of intellectual tradition and independence that African scholars will be able to conduct genuine dialogue with their counterparts all over the world. Thus, an African university - while valid in its own right - is not an antithesis of a university. It is rather a genuine claim to a better place for institutions of higher learning within the international community.

Universities need to Africanise because only through an African university can Africanist scholars provide a corrective to the

myth that Africa has not and cannot make any meaningful contribution to universal human progress (that is, if what we are experiencing universally is indeed progress).

An African university can help bring about sustainable social and human development through substantial and concrete contributions to the practical problems faced by the disadvantaged communities in South Africa. This is because instead of being a "supranational" institution of higher learning characterised by high insensitivity to the problems of an essentially developing African country, such a university will be directly rooted in South Africa and basically articulating South African predicaments and dilemmas.

An African university would be an instrument for the refinement and definition of African culture and a vehicle for its transmission from one generation to another. An African university will contribute in the creation of a mind-set that seeks to fundamentally affirm the Africanness of indigenous peoples and contribute in giving meaning to the concept of an African and its realisation. This will go a long way in helping to stop the Western colonial-type education that has been producing "black Europeans" who are pale imitations of Europeans in Africa. That African intellectuals have become tragic figures who owe their only allegiance to different Western intellectual traditions can no longer be argued. Only an African-inspired and African-intellectually-rooted university can reverse this disease which others have called the "captive mind".

Lastly, Africanisation will present legitimacy, relevance, appropriateness and harmony (with the general sociocultural environment). From the point of view of sociology of knowledge, the specific and unique objectives in South Africa necessitate a need for an African university with a distinct African orientation in its philosophy of education. This is not an advocacy for insulated African institutions of

*Universities need to reflect a new sensibility*

higher learning, since they will have to be nourished by progressive and revolutionary elements from the civilisations, traditions and cultures. After all, there are limits to the extent to which the wider international functions of a university can be set aside to meet local needs. The issue is which one takes precedence over the other and not of mutually exclusive alternatives?

What are the problems and prospects facing the development of an African university? The first problem is the absence of a community of African scholars with a distinct African scholarship.

But it would be unfair to categorise all African intellectuals in South Africa as suffering from what is called the "captive mind" since there is a small but significant group of young and old proponents of Africanisation. It is highly salutary to note that this distinguished intellectual pedigree of men and women have taken the responsibility to assert their right and that of their fellow Africans to be African and have realised that the issue is not to seek incorporation in white institutional structures but to create their own.

The success of the struggle for social transformation, with particular emphasis on Africanisation, will depend on the social and political commitment, intellectual insight, depth of wisdom and degree of dedication (and ability to serve, suffer and sacrifice) of those involved in driving such a process.

Fundamentally they would need to struggle around concrete programmes in which the essential ingredients of the new are embodied.

In distilling the ingredients for the new from the African past, it is hoped that the proponents of Africanisation will be careful not only to glorify their ancestral past and celebrate the innocence of the African continent. Fortunately thus, for this has not been the case.

Africa was not a virgin when European colonialists invaded and massacred indigenous African people. It had its own dynamics and contradictions. Of crucial importance at this point is that the transformation of tertiary educational institutions is in need of direction, vision, bold leadership and purpose. -  
*The author is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of the North.*

CP 29/3/98

(74)

# We must realize fellow Africans can strengthen us

(54)

EP 29/3/98

**G**ABY MAGOMOLA, in the Felicia Mabuza-Suttle show of 23 March, made an important point which was not followed up, and not highlighted enough.

The show ended up giving the impression that there is a "problem" in the relations between African-Americans working and living in South Africa and local Africans.

Magomola reminded the audience that this problem did not exist among whites.

We know that this country, especially under the last regime, encouraged whites from every corner of the world to come and settle in South Africa, mainly to add to the missing skills needed in our economy, as well as to fulfill the political aim of increasing the numbers of whites compared to Africans.

We saw no articles in white newspapers about tensions and struggles between white South Africans and these white immigrants, and neither were there TV shows on the issue, simply because it was a non-issue.

People from other regions of the world are invited into a country primarily for economic reasons, as well as for the political reason of building a nation.

The white rulers of America and Europe forcefully brought Africans to America, the Caribbean, and South America, for economic reasons, as slaves, hence the African diaspora, amongst which we count African-Americans.

The white rulers of the US did not envision Africans in their midst as material for the political aim of building up the US as a nation.

Even the "Great Emancipator", himself, Abraham Lincoln, wondered aloud whether Africans, who helped build America with their sweat and blood during the days of slavery, might not be shipped back to Africa, for their own good as well as for the

OTHER countries, like

Europe and the United

States, grew powerful

importing foreign skills

and so should South

Africa, argues Prof H W

Vilakazi, University of

Zululand.

good of America.

For, Lincoln felt, they could not be assimilated into the American nation as equals with whites.

Other millions of people from Europe came as ordinary labourers, for the economic building of the country as well as for the political construction of a nation.

The US, in particular, craves for the educated, technological, and scientific skills of people from every corner of the world, especially if they are white, for the purpose of developing the American economy and society.

In this way they maintained their powerful position in the world.

To this end, the US made it easy, by law, for people with special skills, to come to America and enjoy instant success.

After the last World War, the US raided defeated Germany for German scientists and engineers.

A key name here was Werner von Braun, who with a team of many German scientists, based in Alabama, together with US scientists, helped create the US space industry.

The academic life of America was

■ Turn to Page 18

# Bringing African Renaissance to Durban-Westville

(54) CP 29/7/98

The formerly Indian university's vice-chancellor is committed to a peaceful, multicultural campus

When the once-troubled Durban-Westville University slaughtered nine cattle, two sheep and a goat recently to celebrate the arrival of the new vice-chancellor and to mark the first time in eight years that there was no turmoil, one was left in any doubt that the institution was undergoing major changes. The butchering of cattle - which is taboo to the Hindu religion to which many of the Indian students belong in a university where in the not-too-distant-past they were the majority - marked a spectacular break with the past.

In comes the new multiculturalism and a new style of leadership, in the person of Professor Mapule Ramashala.

It is not every day that you meet a university vice-chancellor who sets aside time each month to talk to parents of students, telling them what the university is doing and later telling an unbelieving student "as I was talking to your mother...!"

And it is quite unusual for a university principal to walk around the institution in informal sports shoes.

You may ask what happened to the stern, austere, "dignified" image of a head of a university? But Ramashala is as highly educated and tough as they come under that deceptive image.

Among a string of academic achievements she has an MA in clinical psychology from the University of the Witwatersrand and a D Ed in Counselling and Guidance from the University of Massachusetts.

She completed a dissertation entitled *Psychological Changes as a Function of Black-White Interaction Groups*, before achieving her Masters in Public Health from John Hopkins University.

In 1995 she was appointed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by President Nelson Mandela.

Perched up in her office, which has a view of the university and the city of Durban, she talks about her vision of the institution and what she hopes to have achieved when her contract expires in five year's time.

"It is the first time in eight years that the university has been this quiet. We were distracted in our mission. The entire university community said 'enough is enough' to the turmoil and now we are into serious business," she says.

It has been so quiet that some people have been wondering whether the university still exists, says Ramashala. There are 10 000 students, 64 percent of them African, enrolled this year.

When she leaves she hopes the university will have succeeded in developing potential national and provincial leaders.

Ramashala wants a new kind of graduate, one who is socially responsible, who is "challenged when he sees a homeless person in the middle of the city of Durban, Johannesburg, Cape Town, who is concerned about progress in our country and who contributes not only to their own

At the forefront of transforming the University of Durban-Westville into a truly African

university is Professor Mapule Ramashala, the vice-chancellor, who wears sports shoes and jeans.



By Chris Hlongwa

individual aspiration but to the regional, national and international standing of our country".

The professor knows it's a tall order, but says: "If you don't expect much from people you don't get much."

"A graduate must continue to search for truth. An engineer must not just be an engineer who looks at the environment and at a building and says it's a beautiful building when it is not user-friendly to disabled people. We have a shortage of people of that capacity."

She admits there was stiff competition for her job: "The other two candidates were very strong in their training and experience," she says, but the university council voted unanimously in her favour.

The fact that she is a woman is irrelevant, she says.

However, it is important in the sense that her gender can inspire other aspiring woman vice-chancellors around the country.

"But I am not so arrogant as to say I'm a role model. That's too much of a burden."

She would rather be regarded as a mentor than a role model, to inspire women, to develop their capacity and to open up opportunities for them.

Ramashala chooses her terminology very carefully. She prefers to be called a vice-chancellor because, "the title rector is a relic of apartheid years".

She is determined to remove the mystery around the rectorate.

When she phones to talk to parents all over the country, some are taken aback. But one parent said afterwards "I feel better now".

However, her wonderful relationship with students is "not always a love affair". Things are going well with the students' representative council (SRC), she says,

but adds, "Do not ask me what it will be like tomorrow".

Ramashala says she regards the SRC as a "watchdog" for the interests of students. "We are in constant negotiation with the SRC," she says.

The trick is open dialogue - for the students to know the limits facing management and the management to understand their pressures.

Durban-Westville, formerly an Indian university, now has a majority of African students. Ramashala earnestly believes the institution should be multicultural.

The university now observes customs that reflect the student population, including those of Hindu and Muslim students.

"This is a centre of African values. I'm talking of a potpourri of Nguni, Sotho, Indian. For me, African means all of us. We happen to be Africans of different heritages."

The composition of staff, which is predominantly people of Indian heritage, should begin to reflect the student population, she says.

"I'm not here to get rid of Africans of Indian heritage and replace them with Africans of Nguni, Sotho heritage," she stresses. She is looking at performance.

Ramashala requires each faculty to do an academic staff profile and provide long-term plans on how they'll achieve employment equity in gender and race.

Her aim is to achieve enough of a balance in the staff to expose students to many perspectives and to "enrich the education of our students in a way that they benefit not only from the course content, but also from cross-cultural experiences".

Out of work, Ramashala loves cooking for her children. "My favourite is vegetable breyani," she says.

A mother of three children, and three other surrogate children, she also loves gardening and reading fiction.

Her favourite, "but a difficult author" is Toni Morrison.

"But you know who I'm discovering lately?" she asks. "Andre Brink... *Imaginations of Sand* is the book I'm reading right now. A very, very insightful writer. I haven't finished the book. I'm collecting his works now."

With Ramashala at the helm, we may be discovering just what an excellent African university can be like.

"Its education department is understood to be the best in the province. It also has excellent science and engineering faculties," says the vice-chancellor.

The university's documentation centre recently launched 1998 as the Year of Nelson Mandela in an attempt to bring art and significant research material about the country's leader to South Africans.

"It is a wonderful winding-down of his public career," says Ramashala. She encourages the public to see the exhibition before it leaves for the United States.





**ROOM WITH A VIEW . . .** Durban-Westville vice-chancellor, Professor Mapule Ramashala, who has an MA in clinical psychology, believes in open dialogue with students and has been known to phone their parents for a chat. **■ Pic: CHRISHLONGWA**

# Students to pay R70 to stay for holidays

ARG 31/3/98

(54)

STAFF REPORTER

**The row at the Western Cape College of Education in Kuils River has been resolved with staff and the Education Department backing down on the ban on students staying in hostels during the holidays**

Trouble flared on the campus last week when students were told they would have to vacate residences during the Easter holidays.

There were clashes between the

police and students who held staff hostage then "expelled" them from the campus.

Peter Dumisa of the student representative council said the department had met students who had opted to negotiate with college management and the department.

Tony Eaton, media liaison officer for the department, said the department was glad an agreement had been reached whereby students would be allowed to stay during the holidays at a cost of R70 each.

Education - TERTIARY

1999

## Medunsa closed after protest

(54) Star 6/11/99  
OWN CORRESPONDENT

Medunsa has been closed indefinitely after students trashed the campus yesterday, barricading entrances and barring staff from entering.

The students decided to boycott all activities, including examinations and registration, after some were allegedly told not to return this year.

The university confirmed that all undergraduates were ordered to leave the campus yesterday after management received reports of damage to property and vandalism.

An urgent senate executive meeting is scheduled for today.

Students allegedly overturn-

ed rubbish bins and blocked entrances with dumpsters.

Police maintained a heavy presence on campus, said university spokesperson Richard Maseko.

Student Representative Council president Bandile Masuku denied students had damaged property. "We peacefully trashed the campus, we had the whole evening to damage property but we decided not to."

He said the action was sparked by letters sent to some students ordering them not to return because of disciplinary action against them.

Masuku said students would not leave the campus and he was expecting trouble.

# Student<sup>(54)</sup> riot closes Medunsa

PRETORIA: Medunsa has been closed indefinitely after students trashed the campus yesterday, barricading entrances and barring staff from entering the premises.

The students decided to boycott all student activities, including the rewriting of examinations and registration, after some students were reportedly told not to return this year. CT 6/11/99

The university confirmed that all undergraduate students were ordered to leave the campus yesterday. "Medunsa will be closed for all undergraduate programmes due to the disruption and damage to university property caused by students. An urgent senate executive meeting is to be held today," a statement said.

The students overturned rubbish bins and blocked entrances with dumpsters. They allegedly stole a tractor somewhere in GaRankuwa on Monday night and used it to pull dumpsters to the campus, spilling the rubbish.

One staff member said he was unable to enter the campus yesterday morning.

Police kept a heavy presence on the campus yesterday, said university spokesperson Richard Maseko.

Students' Representative Council (SRC) president Bandile Masuku confirmed that the campus was trashed but denied that there was damage to property.

"We peacefully trashed the campus, we had the whole evening to damage property but we decided not to. Those allegations are not true," Masuku said.

He said their action was sparked by letters sent to some students ordering them not to return because of disciplinary action against them, financial or academic exclusion.

"Some of these students committed offences over five years ago, but yet they are told not to return this year," Masuku said.

He said they were demanding that all students who were sent letters of expulsion be reinstated.

"The SRC views the above as a lockout strategy akin to the old Labour Relations Act. The students therefore resolved not to participate in registration, academic and re-examination programmes since they exclude some students."

Masuku said students would not leave the university premises and the SRC was expecting trouble on the campus. —  
Own Correspondent

# Gates closed to students in debt

Sowetan Reporter

**T**HE Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa) was closed yesterday to undergraduates following the alleged disruption of the academic programme and damage to property by students.

The institution's principal, Professor Ephraim Mokgokong, confirmed the closure yesterday and said the underlying issue was the failure by students to pay their university fees.

He said the university had investigated which students could pay and which could not afford to pay and "those that cannot pay have been permitted to register".

He added that those who could pay, but refused to, had not been given their

54  
results. The results would be held back until the students paid up. The same students would also not be allowed to register for the new academic year.

Mokgokong said the university would remain closed for undergraduates until such time that "we have met with the parents and we have sorted out things".

However, the university's Student Representative Council said yesterday about 70 percent of students had received letters during the holidays informing them not to report for registration this year.

The SRC said the majority of students who had not received their year-end results did not know whether to sit for supplementary exams or not since they could "not enquire about this

while owing the university".

They accused management of having thwarted attempts by final-year medical students to register for the academic year, which started yesterday.

They said more student problems had emerged at a student meeting. These included students who owed the university, but managed to secure full sponsorship for the past few years and "those who did not owe fees and have passed exams".

They said management had refused to either meet student representatives or receive their submissions.

Instead the university's response had been "to close the institution after calling the police even if there were no incidents of violence or damage to property".

Sowetan 6/1/79

# Medunsa lifts ban on undergraduates

PRETORIA: Undergraduate students who were barred from the Medical University of SA in GaRankuwa on Tuesday will be allowed to return to the campus on January 18, Medunsa said yesterday.

Medunsa spokesperson Laurika Olwagén said the decision was made at an urgent meeting by the university's senate earlier in the day.

She said the senate decided that undergraduate students who had not paid last year's class fees would not be allowed to rewrite exams, or register for classes this year.

Olwagén said those students would also not receive their November exam results.

Undergraduate students were ordered to leave Medunsa when some of them trashed the campus in protest against a new "access letter system" which only allowed students who had paid their class fees access to the university and permission to rewrite exams.

Police were called in by the university's management to help prevent further damage.

Medunsa students' representative council (SRC) manager

Bandile Masuku said students would continue to boycott classes until management withdrew the new access system.

"The problems at Medunsa are still going to exist until management decides to meet with the SRC. We have not had a chance to put forward our demands," Masuku said.

Olwagén said it was decided last month after intense negotiations between management and the SRC that if outstanding class fees were not paid by December 9, students would not be allowed to register or receive their exam results.

"All undergraduate students who still owe fees for 1998 are given the opportunity by the university to settle their accounts in order to receive results," she said.

Olwagén said that if students had not settled their debt by the time a supplementary exam was written, they would not be allowed to write it in the future.

All students had been informed in writing by the university about arrangements regarding their fees, Olwagén said. — Sapa

# Medunsa's closure sparks protest fears

DD 7/1/99 (54)

## Primarashni Pillay

FEARS have been expressed by universities that the start of the new academic year could be marked by student protests about fee exclusions, after the Medical University of SA (Medunsa) closed on Tuesday.

Medunsa is believed to be owed about R50m in outstanding fees and the university decided to deregister students who had not paid their outstanding fees.

Students protested about this on Tuesday and the university was closed after re-opening for the new academic year the previous day.

A university official said yesterday the campus would reopen on January 18 and discussions with students were continuing.

He conceded that the university was owed millions of rand.

An official from the national ed-

ucation department was also involved in discussions with management and students.

However, a senior student said management had refused to negotiate the payment of outstanding fees and that in some cases students were expected to pay up to R70 000.

"Management has been slack in recovering outstanding fees and now they are demanding we pay up immediately. It is impossible to suddenly raise R30 000," he said. Students who were in their final year could not be expected to abandon their studies suddenly.

University of Zululand spokesman Carl de Villiers feared that students could also stage protests at the start of the academic year over fee exclusions.

The university is owed R61,5m in outstanding fees.

Of this, R35m is owed by students

who are no longer registered with the university.

About R26,5m is owed by registered students. The university did not allow students to register last year if they had not settled their outstanding fees.

"Because of this many students did not return. New students paid deposits, but incurred debts when they did not settle their subsequent instalments last year," he said.

The University of Durban Westville's outstanding fees for last year total R14,4m.

Simon Kekana, the deputy vice-chancellor of student enrolment and welfare at the university, said that students who were in debt but had passed 60% of their courses, would be allowed to register. However, they would have to pay a deposit. "We will be willing to listen to each case," he said.



# Varsity fees out of reach for students

(54) Sowetan 14/1/99

By Russel Molefe

**P**ARENTS will have to dig deeper into their pockets this year for their children's university education as fees run into thousands of rands.

Enquiries by *Sowetan* yesterday at various universities countrywide show that parents will have to pay more than R15 000 for tuition this year.

The University of the North near Pietersburg demands that every first year student in residence pays R3 300 on registration while day students part with R2 200.

Boarders and day students are then expected to pay R2 200 and R1 100 respectively, in instalments from April until August. All outstanding fees should be settled by the end of September.

These amounts do not include R4 000 for meals for boarders. By year end, a boarder will have paid R18 300 including meals and a day student R7 700.

However, the university is owed R70 million in outstanding fees, some of it dating back to 1959 when it was opened, according to the spokesman Dr A Budeli.

"The outstanding fees were about R89 million since 1959 but due to the recovery measures put in place it has been brought to R70 million. Some former students who are now working have arranged debit orders with us to settle their outstanding amounts," Budeli said.

Although the University of the North allows fees to be paid in instalments, the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) expects

60 percent to be paid by the end of February and the balance in July.

Like the University of Venda, the fees at Wits differ from course to course. A student registering for a Bachelor of Arts degree will pay R10 000 or R10 500 for a Bachelor of Science. A science student is still expected to pay laboratory fees.

This amount excludes accommodation which ranges between R5 300 and R11 875 per year and books and stationery which cost about R2 500.

"There are mechanisms in which students may pay their fees in monthly instalments but we charge interests. However, if a student did well in matric, we may organise a scholarship or partial scholarship for them," Wits spokeswoman Ms Wendy McAllister said.

## Technikon fees

Fees at technikons such as the Vaal Triangle in Vanderbijlpark and Northern Gauteng in Pretoria also range from course to course but are far less than at university.

The fees at technikons range between R3 500 and R10 000, excluding accommodation and meals. The meal system at Technikon Northern Gauteng works out to about R28 per day.

Technikon Northern Gauteng spokesman Mr Godfrey Mdhuli said the fees were not increased this year because of the disagreement between management and the students' representative council.

"But the technikon council at its last meeting hinted that the fees may be increased in March," Mdhuli said.

# Unitra buckles under two sets of staff

(54)

MHG 15-21/199

## Swapna Prabhakaran

**P**ivate contractors and full-time staff at the University of Transkei (Unitra) are mired in an ongoing battle for wages, after a year of turbulent management left the university saddled with two sets of employees to perform basic technical services.

A legal battle looms as the "expensive mistake" by Unitra's management has meant local companies will have to forfeit their contracts with the university.

More than 530 non-academic staff were retrenched late last year by the university principal, Alfred Moleah, as a result of severe budget constraints.

In their place, private contractors were hired to perform on-campus services, including catering, mainte-

nance and security.

Now the retrenched staff have been re-employed after complaints about the retrenchment process from the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) led to an investigation. A report by an independent assessor, Louis Skweyiya, recommended that the retrenched workers be taken on board again, as the decision to retrench had not been officially ratified by Unitra's council.

By this time, however, the private contractors had already taken over the tasks of the returning staffers. Sources at the university say full-scale intimidation is now going on, as contract workers are being chased off campus and told their services are no longer required.

Moleah maintains that the retrenchments were made with good cause as the university is in dire fi-

financial straits. "We found ourselves in a situation where 83% of the university's subsidy goes to salaries. That is unsustainable and will lead to financial ruin," Moleah said.

However, Nehawu's position is that the way in which the retrenchments were carried out was not sensitive to the university's needs, nor to the workers. Moleah has now been forced into taking leave from the university until his contract expires in June. Acting principal Duma Malaza has stepped into Moleah's shoes in his absence. Malaza says Unitra is now feeling the financial burden of an "expensive mistake" made by Moleah.

"Our problem arises from the former principal, who retrenched workers without council's consent, and engaged private workers without proper procedure."

Malaza believes Moleah made the

decision to hire private contractors with spite. "[Moleah] knew that council had reinstated the [retrenched] workers, and yet he went ahead and hired contract workers. It was done willfully and with a full awareness of the consequences," he said.

Over the past two weeks, Malaza has been "working out terms of disengagement" with several of the contracted companies, paying out negotiated settlement fees to dissolve the contracts. However, some of the companies are prepared to take the university to court to defend their contracts — an expensive venture for an already beleaguered institution.

Meanwhile, reports of intimidation continue. Director of technical services Norman Bunn said he was on his annual leave last month. He discovered that in his absence "the union [Nehawu] had taken over,

without following procedures".

Bunn said, "Contractors who were appointed are now being intimidated. There has been physical intimidation, people have been broken into their offices, they have been refused entry on to campus. I have been threatened too. They said they would kill me. There is a state of lawlessness on campus."

He said the private company, Crime Beat, which had been hired to oversee security, was threatened at the gates by armed men. The president of the student representative council, Iwazi Lushaba, said the meeting at the gates was not confrontational.

"It has been skewed into appearing as harassment," he said. "What happened was the security company was told by university employees they would have to leave. It was explained to them exactly why it was important they would have to leave, we wanted to make sure they understood," Lushaba said.

Malaza said this week he "wouldn't be surprised if a little intimidation was going on, given the circumstances".

# Medunsa campus is reopened

PD 19/11/99 (54)

**Primarashni Pillay**

LECTURES at the Medical University of SA (Medunsa), outside Pretoria, are expected to resume this week after the campus reopened yesterday for registration, following agreement between management and students on the payment of fees.

Medunsa initially opened for the new academic year two weeks ago but was forced to shut down after some final-year students who owed more than R70 000 in outstanding fees held demonstrations to protest against the university's decision not to register those who had not settled their debts.

The university is owed R52m in unpaid fees stretching back 10 years.

Student representative council president Bandile Masuku said yesterday's reopening followed an agreement between

management and students that those with outstanding fees would be allowed to see their results from last year.

The university had previously decided to withhold results from students in debt.

These students would also be allowed to write supplementary exams.

Masuku said there were students who had paid last year's fees but had outstanding fees from previous years.

These would have to pay R2 500 on registration and thereafter settle their outstanding debts in instalments.

In cases where students were genuinely needy, as determined by a means tests, they would be allowed to accrue debts but the university would try to assist them by crediting their accounts.

Masuku said some students could afford to pay fees but had cheated the system by not doing so.

# Cash-strapped varsities seek relief

Cost-cutting and income generation essential as student debts balloon into hundreds of millions

By EDWIN RAJDU

Tertiary institutions throughout South Africa have embarked on cost-cutting and income generation measures to fend off a potential crisis caused by the collective student debt, which stands at more than R600-million for last year alone.

Despite the gloomy outlook, the majority of the country's 21 universities and 15 technikons are upbeat, and say they are optimistic about survival against the harsh financial constraints which face them.

The total figure owed to tertiary institutions could be as high as R1-billion, according to an official from the Department of Education. The department was unable to provide a breakdown of what each institution is owed. However, all universities and some technikons disclosed the amounts owed in student fees to *The Star*, adding that the figure would decrease by the time registrations are completed.

The University of Cape Town, which is owed R23-million in 1998 fees, has embarked on restructuring and rationalisation plans aimed at achieving academic priorities and cutting costs.

"We are identifying areas that can be cut. We are encouraging early retirement where these are appropriate, and may have a limited number of retrenchments this year," said UCT spokesperson Helen Zille.

She said that the Government was not dealing adequately with the crisis of affordability of tertiary education. "Student debt is a severe problem for all universities," Zille said.

University of the North (Turfloop) acting vice-chancellor Professor S P Mashike said the situation was "frightening" and that the future looked bleak because of dwindling student numbers and declining revenues.

"If there is no political decision to address the problems of historically disadvantaged institutions,

many would collapse," he warned. Turfloop is owed a staggering R120-million.

Wendy McAllister of the University of Witwatersrand, which is owed around R18-million, said while students are allowed to write examinations, their results are withheld until the outstanding fees are paid or once the student has made plans to pay.

She said Wits was following worldwide trends for streamlining its structures and that the formation of the Income Generation Programme (IGP) in 1997 would be one of the key means to boost revenue.

Mary Burnett of Rhodes University said the days when tertiary institutions relied solely on government funding were over. "Other sources of income are constantly being investigated."

Professor Brenda Gourley, vice-chancellor of the University of Natal, which is owed R6,4-million, said new sources of funding had to be sought and institutions needed to be

run in a more businesslike manner. Peninsula Technikon principal Brian Figaji said his institution would "chase every cent" to survive.

But thousands of students still face the prospect of being barred from studying or the prospect of having their results withheld unless they pay their fees for the past year.

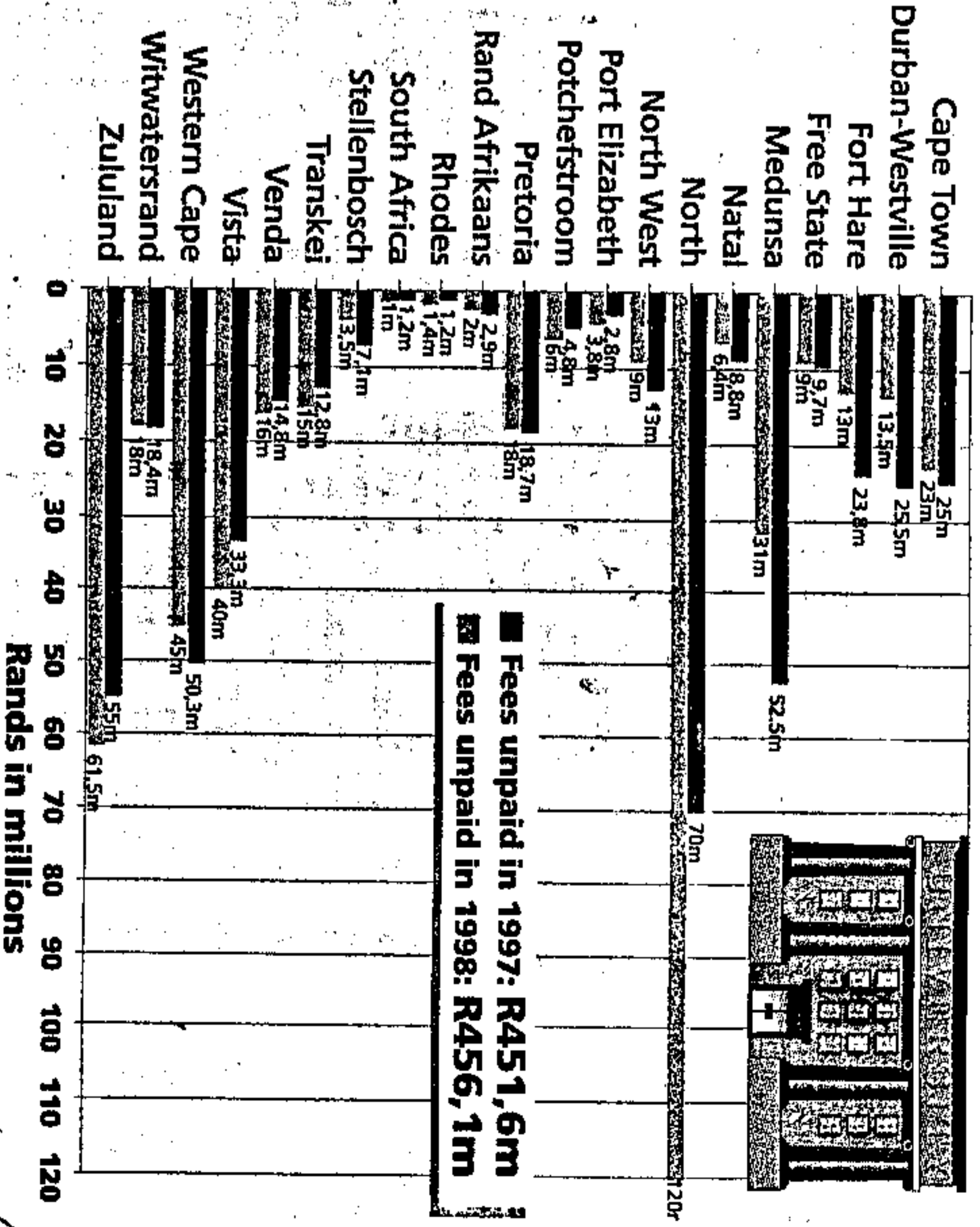
Most of the country's institutions of higher learning have begun collecting unpaid fees, some with the assistance of lawyers and debt collectors.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Professor Shibusiso Bengu said students should accept that higher education is not free and ensure that they pay for their studies.

Bengu also urged tertiary institutions to manage the resources at their disposal in a manner that promotes stability and added that the government would give R390-million for needy students this year.

The money would be administered by the Tertiary Education Fund of SA (Tefsa).

## MILLIONS IN FEES OWED TO UNIVERSITIES



# Court to decide fate of UWC staff

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

THE Labour Court will on Friday decide whether retrenched academics from the University of Western Cape should be temporarily reinstated until a proper ruling is made on their dismissal.

The UWC campus was brought to a standstill towards the end of last year after rector Cecil Abrahams decided to retrench 41 academics as part of a cost-cutting exercise. Students and academic staff

ET 20/11/99  
(54)  
revolted against the move, leaving many bitter and angry.

Judge D Mlambo heard arguments from attorneys acting on behalf of the beleaguered UWC and the 40 academics who were served letters of retrenchment last year, terminating their academic services in June and December this year. Some of the orders were effective in December last year.

Only one of the lecturers' does not wish to return. The remaining 40 are determined to see out the battle to the end.

They are disputing the fairness of the dismissals and the manner in which they were carried out and have referred the matter to the Council for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration. However, despite protracted attempts the dispute remained unresolved and the CCMA issued a certificate to that effect on November 30 last year.

Yesterday, more than half of the affected academics attended the court session which lasted over five hours. Lengthy representations were made by both legal

teams. Mlambo said judgment could be expected by Friday.

A point of argument for both parties was whether the Labour Court had jurisdiction to rule on such a matter, and the applicants' prima facie right to the interim relief sought. Arguments were also heard on whether the dismissals were substantively and procedurally unfair.

*John Newdigate, instructed by Michael Dixon, appeared for the academics and Basheer Waglay represented UWC.*

R390m for <sup>(54)</sup>

student aid

PRETORIA: Registration at tertiary institutions began this week with Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu saying the government will spend R390 million on aid for students this year.

This represents a 30% rise in the state's contribution to the National Students' Financial Aid Scheme. But Bengu warned that this should not be viewed as "free education".

— Own Correspondent

# Govt considers uniform means test for students

Primarashni Pillay

(74) MD 20/1/99

THE education department was considering the introduction of an uniform means test to decide which needy students qualified for loans to study at higher educational institutions.

The announcement was made by the department at a Pretoria news conference yesterday at which Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu announced a R390m allocation to the national student financial aid scheme.

The scheme is administered by the Tertiary Education Fund of SA and has controlled the provision of loans to needy students since 1994. The R390m allocation is 20 times more than the first amount of R20m allocated to the fund in 1994.

To date, nearly R1,7bn has been granted to the fund, with the assistance of donor support.

"This translates into just more than 264 402 awards to students to date," Bengu said. The latest allocation would benefit more higher education students.

The department could not provide details on how many students would benefit from loans this year, but Nasima Badsha, deputy director-general of higher education, said on average students took loans of R6 000 a year. This meant that up to 65 000 students could benefit this year, including those already in the system.

Badsha said the department was considering implementing a single national means test to control those benefiting from government assistance. Currently, institutions conduct their own means tests, using "tried and tested methods". However, some students managed to cheat the system.

Badsha said these funds would target poor students who, in order to qualify for state loans, had to have exceptional academic achievements and prove their family income was below a certain level.

Loans granted to students would have to be repaid later at an interest rate of inflation plus 2%.



Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu announced yesterday that the government would set aside R390m for needy students this year. He said this represented a 20-fold increase in state financial aid to students since 1994.

Picture: TREVOR SAMSON

# Govt grants R390-m for needy students

54

*source on 20/1/99*

THE Government would give R390 million for needy students this year, Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu said in Pretoria yesterday.

He said this represented a 20-fold increase in state financial aid to students since 1994.

The amount allocated for this year was in line with the annual amount recommended by the National Students Financial Aid Scheme last August.

More than 264 402 awards had since 1994 been made to students from R1,7 billion in state and donor contributions.

"This is... a clear indication of our commitment to increasing access to higher education of financially needy but academically able students," Bengu said.

He said he expected a similar commitment from the other parties. Students and managers of tertiary institutions should do their part to ensure that the financial aid scheme was sustainable.

"I trust that students will accept that higher education is not free, and ensure that they contribute to the cost of their studies," he said.

"Similarly, I trust that higher education institutions will manage the resources at their disposal in a manner that promotes institutional stability."

The state's contribution to the national financial aid scheme was being managed by the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa.

Plans were in the pipeline to convert this fund into an administra-

tively independent statutory agency with a board appointed by the minister, Bengu said.

● Meanwhile, the launch of the Stellenbosch University satellite, Sunsat, South Africa's first locally designed and manufactured satellite, has again been postponed, the university announced yesterday.

Spokesman Douglas Davies said the blast-off into space by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the Vandenberg Air Force base has now been set for 12.39,52 South African time today.

Davies said the university was notified that yesterday's launch had been abandoned due to unfavourable weather conditions.

This will be the seventh attempt to launch Sunsat since January 1 - Sapa.



# MEC cuts number of colleges

By Makhudu Sefara

**T**HE number of unemployed teachers in Northern Province has increased to an all-time high of 35 000 at the beginning of the year, education MEC Dr Mathume Phaahla said yesterday.

The high number of qualified teachers has forced the education department to cut the number of teachers training colleges from 10 to 4.

"These measures have been necessitated by the ever-growing number of teachers produced year after year without any prospects of employment in the immediate future.

"The ten colleges of education, together with the Universities of the North, Venda and Vista were producing an average of 6 000 teachers annually and the present number of teachers roaming the streets with degrees and diplomas stands at 35 000," Phaahla said.

The department announced last year that all finishing centres throughout the province, established to assist failed matriculants improve their symbols, would be closed this year and would lay off more than 720 teachers.

The four colleges that would offer teacher training were Makhado, Giyani, Mapulaneng and Mastec (formerly known as Kwena Moloto) in the central region.

The six rationalised colleges, Phaahla added, would be used as in-service training centres to retrain teachers in the new-mode of teaching, namely Outcomes Based Education and Training (OBET) and Curriculum 2005 programmes in all subjects.

Phaahla said the four colleges would train science and commerce teachers while the rest would phase out student-teachers in two years.

Only students who obtained matric exemptions would be admitted at the four colleges, Phaahla said.

In a move the department believed would help improve poor matric results in the province, first year lecturers in the rationalised schools would be trained as OBET and Curriculum 2005 facilitators.

The lecturers would also train high school teachers in OBET.

"If necessary these lecturers will also assist pupils at schools on sections of subjects that were problematic to both the teachers and pupils. We are hopeful that the new system will not only help us stop producing redundant teachers but will also help boost the level of teaching at our schools. These would ultimately improve our matric results," Phaahla said.

The province obtained 35,1 percent matric pass rate last year – an improvement of 3,3 percent from the 1997 pass rate, but still the lowest in the country.

SOWETAN 21/1/99

(54)

# Another UWC fee furore feared

ET 22/1/99

(54)

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

STUDENTS at the University of the Western Cape are expected to rise in revolt again this year, mirroring the chaos that nearly destroyed the campus this time last year, if their debt-ridden fellow students are not re-admitted.

Members of the UWC student representative council will meet today to discuss their position on students being excluded from the campus because they have not paid their fees.

They will also talk about the student debt and announce the SRC's plan to contribute to the financial sustainability of the university.

Angry students derailed the registration process last year when they were not allowed back to study. Fears are rife among academics and fee-paying students that this could happen again this year.

More than 300 students were arrested last year for not vacating residences, and the university faced closure as a result of tensions between students and management.

Last year it was estimated that students owed the university R52 million in outstanding fees. Of the 7 000 student debtors, 1 732 owed more than R10 000 and 988 more than R25 000. Last year the SRC presented the university with a proposal to curb financial exclusions, and it is expected that a similar appeal will be made to rector Cecil Abrahams.

SRC spokesperson Thabo Masombuka said "the problems of financial and academic exclusions have befallen historically black institutions once more".

"It is the time of year when thousands of needy and academically deserving students will be refused access to higher education because they owe the various institutions money.

"The government has increased financial aid by 30% from last year's budget of R350m. While this is warmly welcomed, we empha-

size that it does not address the central issue of the unaffordability of higher education," Masombuka said.

In previous years university administrations have allowed themselves to be drawn into protracted negotiations with students over unpaid fees. This inevitably led to a rising debt at institutions across the country. At UWC, student debt three years ago was about R20 million.

Masombuka added that at UWC "the possibility of the repetition of last year's ugly scenes beckons as the university authorities are apparently refusing to discuss with student leaders the mechanism through which the looming crisis can be arrested".

Last year the campus road was littered with charred branches, straw and smouldering tyres. Students lay asleep in groups on lawns and outside the campus gates.



**TO HEAR APPEAL:**  
Rector Cecil Abrahams

Police armoured vehicles patrolled the campus day and night.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said at the time that students must pay up. He also criticised universities and technikons, saying they had a responsibility to ensure that all fees were paid.

The head of the UWC Academic Staff Association, Lionel Nicholas, said students had received letters last year informing them they would not be admitted this year if their fees were outstanding.

He said the university expects the number of matrics who apply to UWC to be considerably lower than in previous years. This could in turn have "quite an impact on the financial situation of the university".

Meanwhile, it is believed that matriculants who applied last year for the 1999 academic year have not received replies from the university.

● The Labour Court is expected to deliver a verdict today on whether the 40 academics retrenched by UWC must be reinstated until it decides whether they were unfairly dismissed.

# UWC students warn of debt chaos

## Management has not been taking us seriously, says SRC president

JACQUI REEVES  
STAFF REPORTER

Student representatives at the University of the Western Cape have warned that the violence and chaos that broke out on the campus late last year may be repeated, this time over student debt issues, unless university management meets them.

Ntsie Ntshitomboni, Student Representative Council (SRC) president, yesterday accused university

management of repeatedly postponing meetings and of "not being interested" in SRC initiatives.

"Management has not been taking us seriously, nor our wish to make sure that the trouble we saw last year doesn't return when classes begin.

"They have postponed meetings all week, but don't seem to realise that when students come back for the first term the debt crisis is still going to be there," he said.

When the institution reopens its doors in the second week of February,

it will be with a student debt estimate of R45-million.

Mr Ntshitomboni said that although this was a reduction from last year's first-term debt of R60-million, the cash crisis facing students could not be ignored.

"Students are going to arrive, will once again not be able to pay their outstanding debts and, therefore, will not be able to register.

"The SRC started trying to negotiate even before the end of the year to avoid trouble like last year, but we've

had no luck so far," he said.

The UWC campus was brought to a standstill last October when students and workers went on the rampage after wage talks broke down.

Dustbins were overturned, barricades were erected and police were called in to disperse protesters.

Initial anger over the retrenchment of 41 academics broadened with the possible retrenchment of more than 300 non-academic staff in further cost-cutting moves.

The university was also locked in

wage negotiations with the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union at the time.

The Labour Court will today make a ruling as to whether the 41 academics should be temporarily re-instated until a new ruling on their dismissal can be made.

The academics are disputing the procedures followed in their dismissals and the fairness of the action. A UWC spokesperson would not comment on the case, saying it was "sub judice until Friday".

ARC 22/1/99 (54)

# 'Anxious' rector wants sacking appeal postponed

**Mungo Soggot**

**T**he sacked rector of the Vaal Technikon, Professor Aubrey Mokadi, has told the institution's council he is suffering from an "anxiety disorder" that justifies a postponement of his appeal against the disciplinary probe which fired him.

Mokadi has sent the Vereeniging technikon a copy of a clinic's letter that states he is suffering from an "anxiety disorder".

The technikon's attorneys confirmed this week they had received the letter, and had asked the clinic, Fisha Psychological Services, for details about itself and the doctor who had examined Mokadi. This request had yet to be met at the time of going to press.

Mokadi appealed the finding by the disciplinary inquiry, which was chaired by the head of the Johannesburg Bar Council, advocate Roland Sutherland, SC, last November. Sutherland, who recommended the council axe Mokadi, found the controversial academic guilty on several counts of impropriety, including securing himself an unauthorised, massive increase in his housing allowance.

Sutherland said in his judgment that Mokadi had "consciously and deliberately behaved in a patently underhand manner. Such findings in respect of Professor Mokadi are tragic. He is manifestly a talented and gregarious person."

Mokadi was suspended in November 1997. The most remarkable aspect of his lengthy bat-

tle with the technikon has been the support he has received from Minister of Education Sibiso Bengu, who mentored Mokadi at Fort Hare University.

Bengu threatened to cut off the technikon's subsidy last November if it proceeded to fire Mokadi — a threat which was endorsed by the Office of the Public Protector, which also sought to intervene several times on Mokadi's behalf during the saga.

Mokadi declined to comment this week on his bid for a postponement of his appeal, saying his health was a "private matter". He said he would eventually be vindicated, claiming Sutherland had been biased against him.

Mokadi said his version of events — such as his contention that the technikon's coun-

cil had embarked on a witch hunt against him — had not been reflected in the *Mail & Guardian*. "I feel I have been unjustifiably attacked," he said.

Mokadi's appeal is likely to take place after a new council is appointed. It will be chaired by a Johannesburg attorney who specialises in labour law.

Both Mokadi and the Public Protector, Selby Bagwa, have lodged complaints with the Press Council about the *M&G's* coverage of the technikon saga.

The newspaper reported that Bagwa and his office sent several letters to the council's lawyers, raising concerns about the treatment being meted out to Mokadi. Bagwa's office also tried to secure legal aid for Mokadi.

574

M+G 22-28/1/99

# Learning - the hard way

By ALI MPHAKI and STEVE DLAMINI

SOUTH AFRICA'S institutes of learning are fast becoming favourite haunts for gangsters and it appears as if there isn't much the education authorities are presently doing about it.

Several violent incidents of robbery, attempted murder and attempted rape have been reported in various schools and institutions since the beginning of this academic year.

The latest incident involves a Vista Mamelodi lecturer who was nearly raped on Thursday by an armed man who posed as a prospective student.

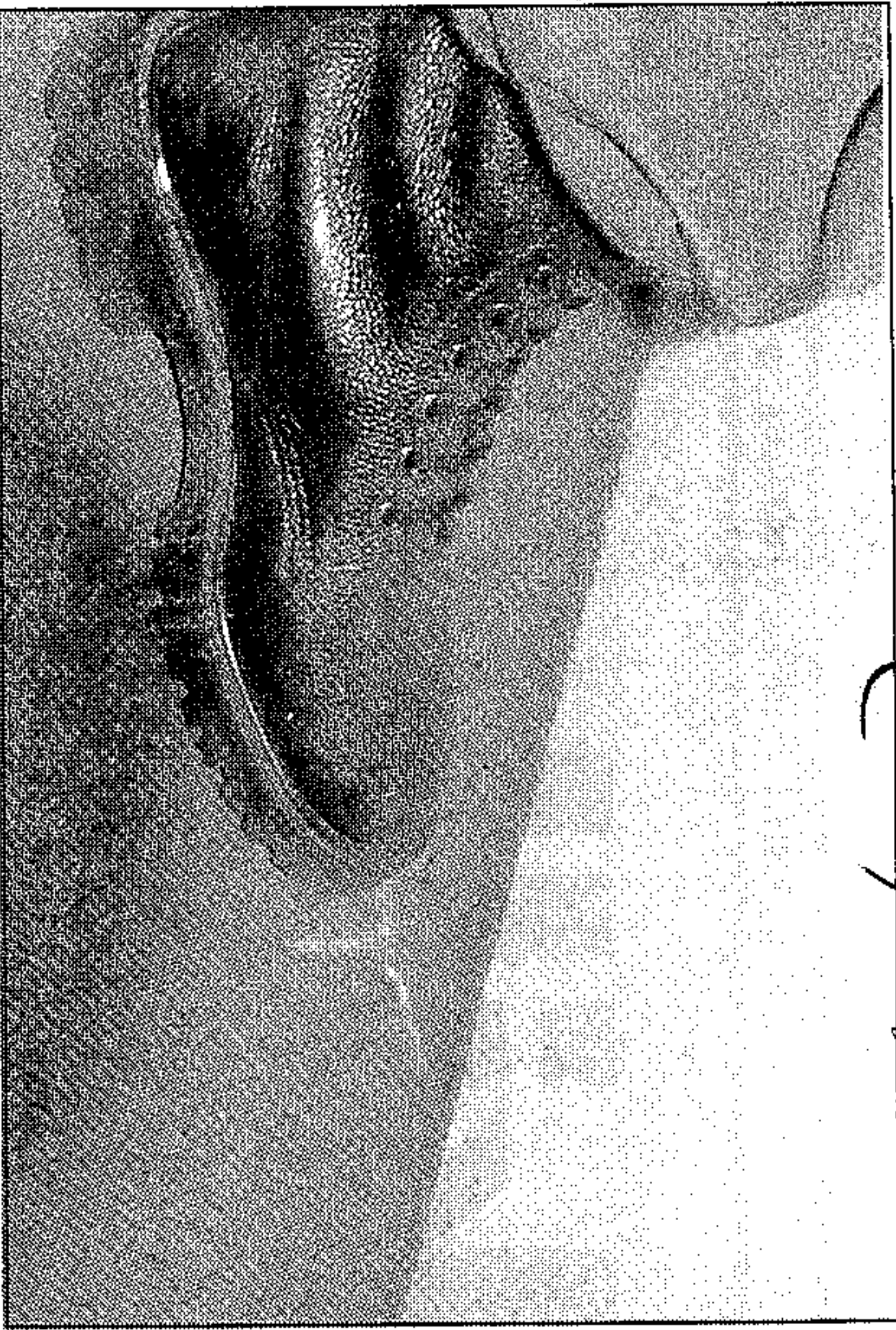
In the past weeks the following incidents were reported:

- A 14-year-old boy was shot in the shoulder during a fracas involving two warring groups of students at Ekangala Comprehensive on Thursday.
- A principal in Etwatwa was shot by robbers and is in a critical condition; they escaped with R2 650 two weeks ago.
- At Lenasia's Zodiac Primary, robbers made off with about R18 000 on January 12 after locking up the principal and staff in an office.
- A student in the Northern Province who failed his exams shot dead three of his lecturers before turning the gun on himself.

Places of learning in the past used to be hallowed places, but of late they have become easy targets for gun-toting thugs. More shocking is the fact that in some instances the criminals are pupils studying at their own school.

In the Vista Mamelodi incident, lecturer Marian Peterson narrowly escaped death when a man posing as a prospective student cornered her in her office and pointed a gun at her. The man threatened to shoot her if she screamed and then took a rope from his clothing, intending to tie her up.

But Peterson defied her attacker with a loud scream, causing the man to fire a shot which miss-



THE LESSON? . . . A policeman's boot shows where a bullet struck a table (above) and right, the rope which was going to be used to tie up a lecturer. ■ Pics: STEVE DLAMINI

ed her but hit a table nearby.

She was saved by the timely arrival of a colleague and the man fled through a window, evading campus security.

Gauteng's education department spokesman Aubrey Matshiqi, said the solution to this problem wasn't an educational one.

He said robberies at schools were a criminal problem that could exist elsewhere as well.

"The answer lies in the police having the capacity to deal with such crimes

and also in the community's involvement in the apprehension of suspects who are invariably known in their communities," he said.

Matshiqi said that the department could only afford "minimum security at schools" and couldn't post a policeman at every school in the country.

He said a new strategy was to allocate "a new post" to each school. It would then be up to the school's governing body to decide whether the post is given to a teacher or a security guard.



"In addition, we are working with the South African Police Services on projects such as "adopt-a-cop" where a policeman is assigned to a particular school. "Unfortunately, there are not many policemen out there for this project to be in full swing," he said. Matshiqi mentioned that "the ultimate strategy" should be to involve the community, the school's governing body, teachers and learners in ensuring the safety of our schools and campuses. Student groups, like Cosas, have also thrown their weight behind trying to make schools a safe place for learning, by helping safeguard various premises. See also Page 4.

(54) SP 26/11/99

# No more non-payment at Medunsa

By MATTHEWS MPETE

(54)  
AFTER a temporary closure due to disruptions by students, including campus vandalism, the Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa) has re-opened its doors.

However, students' debts currently amount to R56,9 million, and the management of the university is taking steps to recover fees owed by the students.

University vice chancellor and principal, Prof FT Mokgokong, says students are categorised in four groups:

- of 24/11/99
- Those who did not undergo the means tests and have not paid their fees for 1998 or before;
  - Those who have written the tests and are able to pay;
  - Those identified as needy, who will be helped to acquire bursaries and sponsors; and
  - Those who can and have paid their fees.

The first two groups are those creating a problem for the university and will not be allowed to register unless they make urgent arrangements with the finance department as to how they'll pay their outstanding debts. Students who

have bursaries and who have no outstanding debts can register by paying a registration fee of R500 instead of the normal registration fee of R2 500.

In a statement, Mokgokong, who is expected to leave the university in two weeks, said Medunsa should not be seen as an institution that caters for the rich.

"The university still honours its mission statement - it was established to give access to all South African students across the economic spectrum. But with the demanding burden of sustaining the institution, students need to realise that they have to pay for services they receive."

# Five universities without rectors

(54) Star 25/1/99

Institutions will be led by professors in acting positions when academic year starts

By EDWIN NAIDU

Five of the country's universities will be led by professors in acting positions when the academic year gets under way in two weeks.

The University of the North (Turffloop), University of the North West and the University of Transkei, will be without permanent vice-chancellors when the new term begins.

The University of South Africa, one of 10 mega-universities in the world, is also searching for a permanent leader.

The Medical University of South Africa has chosen deputy vice-chancellor Professor Ramaranka Anderson Magotlane to replace retired vice-chancellor Professor Ephraim Mokgogong. However, he only takes up the position on February 1.

The Vaal Triangle Technikon, embroiled in a long-running dispute with ousted rector Professor Aubrey Mokadi, could also face another uncertain year with Professor P A Swanepoel remaining as acting vice-chancellor.

But Turffloop is expected to confirm the appointment of former Truth and Reconciliation Commission chief executive officer Dr Biki Minyuku, even though some members of the university council felt neither he nor the other applicants were suitable for the post because they had not published widely or had the necessary management experience.

However, some members of the selection panel indicated they were prepared to take a

"risk" with Minyuku who is expected to start on March 1.

North West's Professor Moteane John Melamu abruptly returned to Botswana last December after a troubled year at the campus plagued by student and financial problems.

The problems were exacerbated after the university's government subsidy was decreased from R101-million to R73-million.

The university has advertised the post which is currently being filled in an acting capacity by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Takatso Mofokeng.

Meanwhile, Professor Anthony Melck is said to be the frontrunner for the vice-chancellor's post at Unisa.

The selection committee makes its choice towards the

end of the month.

However, the term of office for the winning candidate will be only two years and the incumbent will have to rely on Unisa's Broad Transformation Forum for political advice and guidance on matters related to transition at the institution.

Events at Unitra appear to be unclear after the removal of Professor Alfred Moleah last year.

Moleah, whose contract expires in June, was asked to go on leave while the university works out a severance package for him.

Professor Duma Malaza is acting vice-chancellor.

Bheki Khumalo, spokesperson for Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, said tertiary institutions needed managers to ensure stability and efficiency.

"Stability is epitomised by management," he said.

## Even Unisa is searching for a top man

# Bengu to monitor high overdrafts

Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu is alarmed at the "unacceptably high bank overdrafts" held by some universities and technikons.

Bengu said in Pretoria yesterday that the Department of Education, with the office of the auditor-general, would make in-depth audits of some institutions in the next few weeks. He was also establishing a joint committee with the Department of Finance for a detailed financial review of the higher education sector.

The Star revealed last week that universities and technikons were owed almost R1-billion in unpaid students fees, at least R600-million for 1988 alone. At least six historically disadvantaged institutions said

## Violence on campuses slammed

they survived on overdrafts running into millions.

Bengu said that while transformation of tertiary education was on track, a small minority was undermining the process. But a framework for the governance of higher education was in place and all institutions had to operate within this policy.

"Violence, intolerance, disrespect for individual liberties and the disregard for property are totally unacceptable ways of resolving issues," he said.

"They go against the democratic system we are trying to build. Such behaviour must cease to plague our campuses."

Institutional councils, in turn, had to see there was accountability in the use of public resources. - Staff Reporter

# Transkei university vice-chancellor bails out

'If I'd had 10% of an inkling of the problems I was to have in this job, I would have remained in Philadelphia'

By EDWIN MAJID

**E**mbattled University of Transkei (Unitra) vice-chancellor Professor Alfred Moleah is to leave before his contract ends. But the institution's financial troubles will remain long after he goes.

Dumisa Ntsebeza, chairman of Unitra's council, said Moleah had indicated he would not stay on after his term ends in June. Ntsebeza said the council had decided in November that Moleah should leave because he was unable "to find accord with all constituencies on campus".

Ntsebeza confirmed the university was on the verge of obtaining a loan for R49-million but the terms were stringent and repayments were likely to be very high.

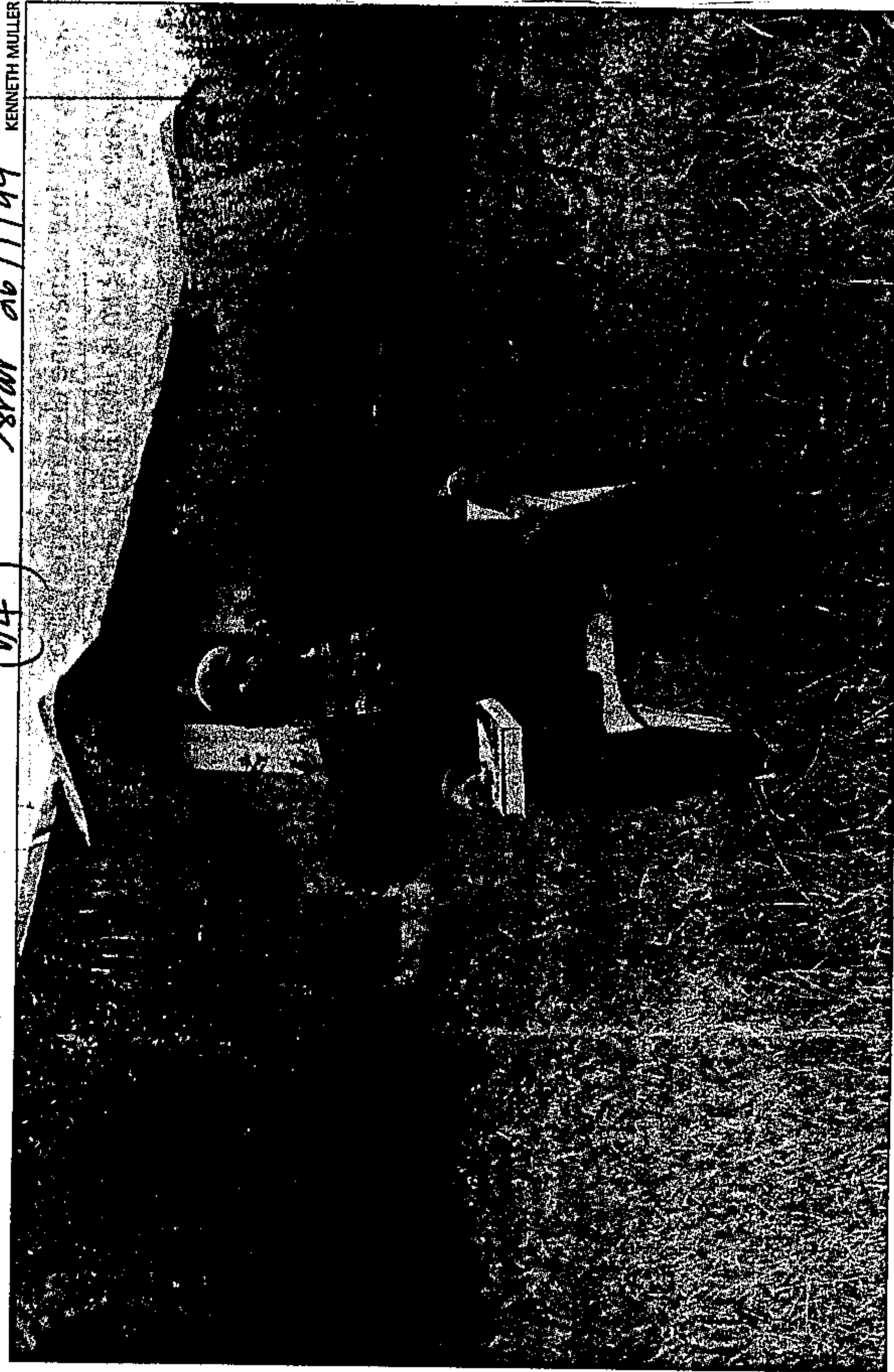
It is understood the university failed in its bid to secure the amount as an overdraft from a leading bank, and also lost out on obtaining a similar sum from another source because it was unable to prove it had cut costs successfully.

Moleah, a former exile who had great expectations when landing the job in Umtata four years ago, said he was disappointed at not being able to complete the task. Death threats to him and his family, strife between staff and students, and disruptions to the academic programme hastened his downfall.

The final straw came when Moleah embarked on a retrenchment programme, which would have seen Unitra shedding 560 staff members.

At enormous cost, consultants proposed the number of staff to go and worked out cost-cutting measures. But when

Star 26/1/99 KENNETH MULLER



Ousted ... vice-chancellor Professor Alfred Moleah was always "putting out fires" at the University of Transkei.

Moleah's tenure came to an end, council overturned the decision to retrench workers and asked them to return to work. However, contracting firms had already been engaged to provide certain services at the not be available for a third.

Moleah believes his tough stand on students who did not pay fees and the decision to reduce staff because "Unitra was a Bantustan which provided employment to some people who did not come to work" had

contributed to his downfall. He had another run-in with staff when he remained steadfast on a no-work, no-pay policy for striking staffers.

"If I'd had 10% of an inkling of the problems I was to have in

this job, I would have remained at Temple University in Philadelphia. I thought we were going to roll up our sleeves and work."

Moleah, now living in Johannesburg, said he planned to go into business.



# Bengu acts on soaring varsity debt

ET 26/1/99

(54)

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION** Sibusiso Bengu is to hold a crisis summit next month to discuss the plague of debt at tertiary institutions, including the University of the Western Cape, to which students owe R46 million in unpaid fees. Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.

**T**HE University of the Western Cape is owed R46 million in unpaid student fees. Of the students who registered at the university last year, 6 957 still owe this staggering amount, according to the finance registrar's records.

It is estimated that universities and technikons are owed almost R1 billion in unpaid fees, at least R600m of which are for 1998 alone.

In Pretoria yesterday, Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu told higher education stakeholders that he was extremely concerned about the financial status of some institutions.

He said that the Department of Education and the office of the auditor-general would undertake in-depth financial audits of some institutions within the next few weeks.

"We are also establishing a joint committee with the Department of Finance to undertake a detailed financial review of the higher education sector," Bengu said.

A summit tackling debt in higher education will be held in mid-February, said education spokesperson Bheki Khumalo. "This is a matter of extreme concern to the minister and the department."

Bengu called on UWC's management and students to hold talks until a workable solution was reached.

A document handed to the UWC Student Representative Council last week from Vice-Rector (Student Affairs) Ikey van de Rheede sets out clearly the crippling financial problems that the university faces this year.

The document, in possession of the *Cape Times*, begins: "The university is in a serious cash-flow situation. We started the year with an overdraft of R7 835 000.

"This will increase to R28 million, R31 million, and R37 million at the end of January, February, and March 1999 respectively.

"Our banker, Standard Bank, has indicated that the maximum overdraft which it is prepared to grant is R18 million."

The university hopes to collect a large portion of the debt at registration and has called for a "tougher stance" than that adopted previously.

To ensure an adequate cash flow — and the running of the university — it needs to collect at least R21m during registration.

University spokesperson Alwyn van Gensen declined to comment

on the finance registrar's document yesterday.

"I cannot verify a document of which I do not know the origin," he said.

The debt crisis "needed to be thrashed out by university stakeholders and not debated in newspapers".

Wanga Sigila, secretary-general of the SRC, said his committee had met Van de Rheede yesterday to discuss the SRC's proposal for reducing the debt.

The proposal was the same as that presented to UWC by the student body last year.

It included following up and maintaining a database of students/parents/sureties/financial credentials and setting up efficient debt-collection systems. It also recommended improving the fees system.

Sigila said that among the issues discussed yesterday was the university's proposal to increase the payments demanded in advance — which the SRC rejected. The SRC had told Van de Rheede that the payment plan adopted last year should be followed again this year.

"We also disagree with the university's de-registering any student who

has defaulted on the payment plan," Sigila said.

"We will continue to negotiate with these issues and exhaust all forms of consultation.

"We don't anticipate a stand-off with management. Students will disrupt registration and create havoc only as a last resort."

He did not think students were as "arrogant or harsh" as they were last year, Sigila said.

"UWC had enough bad publicity last year and this is reflected in the poor student numbers. The deans have even agreed to allow those stu-

dents facing exclusion to be re-admitted because of the poor numbers — that is how critical the situation is."

According to an admissions schedule, in the *Cape Times*' possession and dated January 14, of the 2 859 applicants for 2 242 student places, only 1 287 were deemed suitable. At least six historically disadvantaged institutions survive on bank overdrafts of millions of rands.

"Some of these institutions are owed more than R500m," education spokesperson Khumalo said.

"These debts hamper the proper

□ Turn to Page 3

□ From Page 1

(54)

Varsities' debt

functioning and running of universities. The department is helping them to find solutions and is talking to the banks.

"Above all, we are appealing to students to pay their debts. This kind of thing doesn't augur well for the stability of the education system.

"Everyone has a responsibility to put their shoulder to the wheel.

"Students must realise that higher education is not for free. They must take the responsibility of paying their fees to help the state meet the costs.

"The minister and government are to take a hard line against students who trash campuses and damage property in the name of demanding this and that."

In 1998, the government's subsidy for all universities and technikons was R6,5bn.

Khumalo said the meeting with Bengu in Pretoria yesterday had been attended by representatives of the South African Vice-Chancellor Association, the Committee of Technical College Principals, National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union, SA Democratic Teachers' Union, SA Congress of Students, the South African Union of University SRCs and others.

ET 26/1/99

BD 26/1/99  
Govt to audit  
struggling  
universities,  
technikons  
(54) (S)  
Primarashni Pillay

THE education department and the auditor-general would audit tertiary institutions running huge overdrafts, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

Bengu was addressing a meeting in Pretoria attended by university and technikon principals, student bodies and unions.

Bengu said the education and finance departments would also establish a joint committee to conduct a detailed financial review of the higher education sector.

Bengu said this exercise would inform future medium-term expenditure framework projections for higher education.

"We hope (the financial review) will ... advise on steps which need to be taken to ensure the sustainability of the system," he said.

SA's higher education institutions are in financial crisis as they are owed about R500m in outstanding fees. The Medical University of SA (Medunsa) is owed about R52m in outstanding fees and the University of Zululand R61m.

The SA Reserve Bank website says that at the end of November, universities and technikons owed First National Bank R26,221m; while Standard Bank was owed R23,843m.

Medunsa, the Universities of Transkei and Fort Hare are believed to be running huge overdrafts.

Meanwhile, Bengu said that in some cases annual budgets had not been formally approved by the institutions' councils.

"This is not an acceptable basis for the running of institutions. Universities and technikons are expected to operate within their budgets," he said.

He said all institutions needed to re-examine their location in the higher education system and that staff restructuring may be unavoidable.

08-2

Handwritten mark

4-6-9-6

NICERIA

206

# Govt must grasp debt nettle

By Console Tleane

**I**N 1994 a wave of uprisings hit almost all South Africa's institutions of higher learning. Central to these uprisings was the issue of tuition fees owed to institutions by students.

At the time the student movement demanded that no student should be excluded on financial grounds. In response, the Ministry of Education set up a committee chaired by Cheryl Carolus.

The committee, as well as subsequent committees, commissions and task groups, made several recommendations. But despite all their lofty ideas, all efforts to resolve the issue of student debt have come to nought.

The debt has instead steadily increased. The situation has now reached crisis point. Figures for 1998 (for universities only) indicate that students owe R456.1 million.

This represents an increase of R4.5 million on the 1997 figure of R451.6 million. A breakdown of these figures indicate that black universities account for the bulk of the debt.

The question of student debt has been around for quite some time and seems to be a never-ending problem - always easy to analyse but quite difficult to resolve.

## Far better off

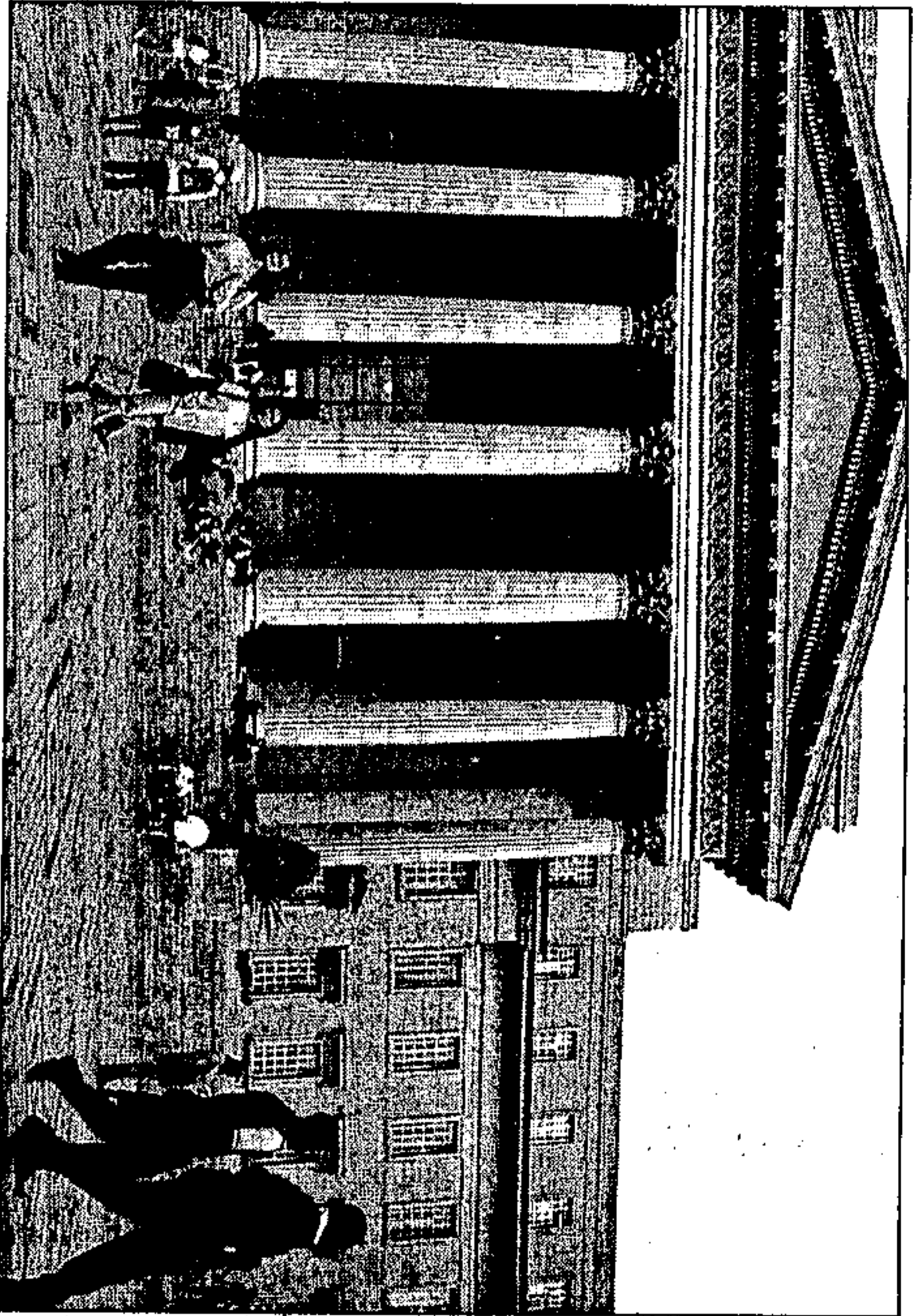
A look at student debt figures point out at a few factors.

Firstly, white universities, while also badly affected, are still far better off compared to black universities.

The hardest hit white university is the University of Cape Town, with a debt of R23 million for 1998. Compare this to the University of the North's R120 million debt.

The least affected white university is the University of South Africa, whose debt stands at R1 million for 1998. Compare this with the lowest figure for a black university - North West - which stands at R9 million.

This situation is the result of a



University students owed R456.1 million in unpaid tuition fees last year. This is an increase of R4.5 million on the 1997 figure and the situation has now reached crisis point.

*Seneta 26/1/99*

be unable to pay tuition fees.

It would seem that the Government's refusal to cancel the debt is informed by a concern not to set a precedent which, in the mind of Government authorities, may send the wrong message to the public.

The last consideration - and this will present the most difficult option politically - is not only to cancel the debt, but to start providing free education.

Realistically, this option will not be considered - not because it is not possible, but because the present macro-economic policies dictate against even considering such an option.

The solution to this problem lies squarely on one factor - political will. The Government should be more decisive and take total responsibility to resolve the problem.

Yes, those students who have the means should pay. A mechanism should be devised to create a system which will ensure that those students who can, pay.

## Cancel the debt

Having done that, the Government should cancel the debt once and for all - simply because there is no other option. It will also be necessary to ensure that the most vulnerable institutions are bailed out of the debt cycle.

Financial allocations to institutions should be informed by the principle of redress and, in practical terms, this would mean - without apology - placing a priority on black institutions.

Not only should these institutions be assisted with more institutional funding and fundraising, but they should be treated favourably when it comes to student funding.

At the end of the day, there must be a continuing search for alternatives. Parochial views and a refusal to continue searching seriously for alternatives will not only be a disservice to students and institutions.

It will also derail the movement towards national development. (The writer is an independent education researcher based in Pretoria.)

number of factors which combine to form a trend. Chief among these was apartheid-formula funding.

According to this model, institutions were funded not only in terms of student numbers but also according to research output. Given that white institutions were well-endowed in terms of research capacity, they got favourable funding.

And, perhaps most importantly, white institutions - because of their close working relationships with commerce and industry - received a lot of loans, bursaries and scholarships.

On the other hand, black institutions were and are still shunned by commerce and industry. This means there are very few loans and scholarships available to students at black universities.

With the drying up of "solidarity bursaries" - offered mainly to black students during the pre-1994 era by philanthropic organisations - more black students are now unable to pay their fees.

But secondly, and more than any

other reason, the student debt problem is a clear indicator of the class nature of our society. The overwhelming majority of students at black universities are working class students.

By and large those students who owe money to universities are working class students. Under the present economic order, education is gradually becoming the preserve of the rich.

Many solutions have been suggested to resolve the current crisis. These range from the absurd to the politically challenging.

Some commentators argue that for it to demonstrate its seriousness in wanting to solve the problem, the Government should close some universities (especially those which are owed large amounts of money).

This proposal is not only absurd but devoid of all logic. In the first place, such a move will go against the principle of ensuring more access for black students - only black universities will be closed if this route is followed.

Beyond that, such a move will trans-

form into reality the misinformed views of some neo-liberal advocates and agencies who argue that the country's higher education sector is bloated and should be trimmed either by closing some institutions or by privatising them.

The student movement, on the other hand, has been calling for the cancellation of student debt. This suggestion has been met with very hostile responses.

While it must be admitted that their proposal is not supported by well-researched scientific arguments, the arguments of the opponents of cancelling the debt are not any better. Their response is informed by emotions, a refusal to acknowledge a cul-de-sac and borders on arrogance.

The big question remains: If the debt is not cancelled, how will the money owed be recovered?

It must be borne in mind that most of the students who owe money were forced to drop out of university - thus the debt will not decrease. In fact, it may accumulate as more students may

# Turfloop prof (54) might face probe

Spaw 26/1/99

By EDWIN NAIDU

Former vice-chancellor of the University of the North Professor Ndebele could be subpoenaed before the Heath investigations unit to explain allegations of misappropriation by management and their failure to account for assets at Turfloop.

Spokesperson Guy Rich confirmed the unit was investigating a variety of allegations linked to maladministration.

These include unlawful and unauthorised appropriation of university assets, failure to control these assets, irregular payments to staff who had resigned, abuse of housing and rental allowances and the irregular sale of vehicles.

Ndebele, who is currently in New York, left Turfloop last June after the university - faced with a student debt which currently stands at R120-million - refused to renew his contract.

However, Rich said Ndebele would be summoned if the unit felt his input would assist the investigation.

He added that the unit would also conduct a probe into the charging of excessive fees by university attorneys.

Ndebele constantly engaged the services of a Pretoria legal company during his term.

A separate investigation into Ndebele's severance package by Commissioner of the CCMA and IMSSA arbitrator Patrick Ndou found "gross irregularities had taken place" at Turfloop.

Although Ndebele was appointed as principal in 1993, there was no signed contract.

A letter of appointment, signed by then chairperson of council, Professor Kader Asmal, offered Ndebele a pensionable salary of R212

## University is owed R120-m

472, a fixed allowance of R45 288, plus a BMW 7 Series which was to be serviced and maintained by the university.

A fully furnished official house, rent-free and maintained by the university, all telephone calls and other benefits such as payment of fees for children and holidays were part of the offer.

Within three weeks of taking up the post on July 1 1993, Ndebele's salary was increased to R235 848.

After nine months Ndebele's allowance was increased from R3 774 to R8 140 to assist with a bond repayment, although he was supposed to stay in a furnished official house.

By July 1997 Ndebele was earning a salary of R440 000 a year, plus benefits. "As a public institution, which relies on public funding, one would have expected that salary scales would have top notches," the report said.

The report added that Ndebele was fully paid for 83 days of accumulated leave but there could be "no basis upon which Turfloop could pay for Ndebele's daughter to study at the University of Cape Town this year since his contract expired last year".

"It is this failure by the university to enter into a written contract which has resulted in misunderstandings and misconceptions," the report said.

"The university is not indebted to Professor Ndebele and should he feel aggrieved, he will have to proceed to court," the report concluded.

REINSTATEMENT APPLICATIONS DISMISSED

# UWC wins court battle

(54) CT 28/1/99

**RETRENCHED** academics were told at the Labour Court that the loss of income did not merit the granting of urgent interim relief. Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.

**T**HE University of the Western Cape won a first-round court battle against retrenched academics yesterday when a Labour Court judge dismissed, with costs, an urgent application for their reinstatement.

Judge D Mlambo ruled in the Johannesburg Labour Court yesterday that the matter could hardly be characterised as urgent because dismissal notices to the academics were issued in September and the current application was launched in December — three months later.

The application was also brought to the Labour Court only after the Commission for Concilia-

tion, Mediation and Arbitration had certified on November 30 that the dispute between UWC and the academics could not be resolved.

"It is clear therefore that not only was the application brought after a considerable delay, but it was brought after the conciliation had failed to resolve the dispute. The application therefore stands to fail on this basis alone. Clearly the requirements for an urgent interim relief have not been met," Mlambo said in a lengthy judgment.

In September last year, 41 academics were handed notices of retrenchment without prior warning and consultation. The acade-

mics said that the manner in which the retrenchment was handled was unfair and vowed to fight the university "tooth and nail" on the matter.

The next step now for the academics is a trial in the Cape High Court, where an application was launched months ago.

Professor Lionel Nicholas, chairperson of the UWC Academic Staff Association, said they would adopt a wait-and-see approach until the next court battle, which is likely to be "several months down the line".

"The Labour Court decision is a setback for the academics. They were hoping to be reinstated to their posts until the next court hearing because most of them are not receiving any income at the moment," Nicholas said.

Mlambo said the application also failed on the basis that "no special circumstances warranting urgent interim relief are set out in the (application) papers".

"Reliance is placed on the fact that income will be lost. As stated above, this does not amount to a special circumstance deserving of sympathetic attention by the court."

He added that the loss of income as a result of dismissal was an inevitable consequence and as such provided no good grounds for the granting of urgent interim relief.

*Basheer Waglay, of E Moosa, Waglay and Peterson, represented UWC and John Newdigate, instructed by Michael Dixon of A H Adhikari, appeared for the academics.*

# UWC axings: case 'not urgent'

JACQUI REEVES  
STAFF REPORTER

(54)  
ARU 28/1/99

**Thirty academics at the University of the Western Cape, retrenched since December, expect to wait two or three months for their next day in court.**

The urgent application brought by 41 academics to be reinstated was ruled by Mr Justice D Mlambo in the Johannesburg Labour Court yesterday not to be urgent at all.

The other 11 will keep their jobs until June or December.

The academics heard in September that they were to be retrenched.

Judge Mlambo ruled their application was not urgent because they had launched the application only three months later.

Philip Hirschsohn, a spokesman for the UWC Academic Staff Association, said the

case against the merits of the retrenchments would go ahead in March or April this year, regardless of yesterday's setback.

"We were seeking interim relief here because these people are now unemployed, but we will still go ahead with the case to challenge the merits of the retrenchments, as we believe correct procedure was not followed," said Mr Hirschsohn.

He said the university had not observed a moratorium on retrenchments and had not negotiated procedures for retrenchments. In addition, the staff association said consultation with the university had been only in "very broad terms" over its financial crisis and information about specific departments to be targeted had not been made available.

Judge Mlambo said the application did not list special circumstances warranting urgent interim relief.

# Bengu will not send assessor to Fort Hare

BD 28/1/99 (54)

University in dire straits and expects a R70m shortfall by April

**Primarashni Pillay  
and Ecna**

GRAHAMSTOWN — Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu would not appoint an independent assessor to probe allegations of mismanagement at cash-strapped Fort Hare University, his spokesman Bheki Khumalo said yesterday.

However, Bengu would meet a team from the auditor-general's office and the education and finance departments to investigate universities experiencing financial problems. Fort Hare's vice-chancellor, Prof Mbulelo Mzamane, said this week the university was in financial dire straits and would face a R70m shortfall by the time it received its government subsidy in April.

The financial crisis at the university has already resulted in the late payment of staff salaries.

Mzamane said the university had

approached Standard Bank for an increase in its overdraft but the bank was only able to offer limited help.

The university had also approached the education department which helped organise a R30m loan from Absa. Mzamane told staff that the university had projected that there would be a R13,4m deficit but instead the university had ended up with a R46,8m shortfall.

Reasons for the financial problems included the over-estimation of student fee repayments. The university also "over-projected the payment of bills and the amount of unencumbered donations".

Meanwhile, staff and students this week declared a vote of no confidence in Mzamane and called for an independent assessor to investigate the cause of the financial problems.

Education spokesman Bheki Khumalo said Bengu had ruled out the possibility of appointing an assessor

and that "there needed to be dialogue between the university's stakeholders".

Khumalo said if the university prolonged the resolution of its problems, this could result in the exodus of disgruntled academics. The university would then experience difficulty in attracting quality academics and students.

He said the situation had not reached the crisis level of the University of Transkei (Unitra) where there had been "a total breakdown" to the extent that the university "resembled a police state". There had been no choice but to appoint an independent assessor to run Unitra.

National Tertiary Education Staff Union chairman Theo Bhengu said that the retrenchment of workers at Fort Hare and the awarding of tenders to companies which had not been properly monitored should also be probed.

# University 'needs to be probed'

(54)

**S**TAFF unions at the University of Fort Hare have demanded that Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu appoint a commission of enquiry to probe mismanagement at the institution.

The demand was made at a crisis meeting between management and unions this week at the Fort Hare campus in Alice - sparked by the failure of the university to pay staff salaries.

National Tertiary Education Staff Union chairman and English lecturer Mr Theo Bhengu said a vote of no confidence in the university management had been passed.

Bhengu said salaries had now been paid but that medical aid, pension and life insurance contributions were still outstanding.

He said the transformation forum would now ask the minister for an independent assessor to look into the affairs of the university.

He said they would also call for an investigation into allegations that the university had declared it had a deficit

of R13,8 million, but the real figure was R46,8 million.

Bhengu said the retrenchment of workers and the awarding of tenders to companies, which had not been properly monitored should also be probed.

But in an interview with ECN, vice-chancellor Mr Mbulelo Mzamane said he had not been informed of the vote of no confidence and did not know about an appeal to the minister for a probe.

However, Mzamane said the minister had planned to institute audits into many of the black universities so if a probe was announced it would not be a surprise.

He said: "It would be quite appropriate for this to happen."

Mzamane said no claims of mismanagement had ever been verified.

Asked about claims from staff that he spent much of his time away from the university, he said he was not a "glorified clerk. It is my job to travel".

A spokesman for one of the unions said organisations had been calling for an independent assessor since last February. - ECN.

Sowetan 28/1/1999



## R1-m university job for TRC man

(64) Star 29/1/99

BY EDWIN NAIDU

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's chief executive officer, Biki Minyuku, will receive a salary package of almost R1-million when he starts as vice-chancellor at the debt-ridden University of the North.

*The Star* has learnt that Minyuku's pensionable salary will be in the region of R600 000, but the perks will place him among the big earners in the country's tertiary institutions.

Minyuku, who takes over the post on April 1, will also get a luxury car, the option of a rent-free house or bond repayments, and allowance for hire of security, in addition to a pension, medical aid, free telephone calls, study fees for his children, and holidays.

Minyuku's predecessor, Professor Njabulo Ndebele, was earning in the region of R700 000 a year when his contract ended in June.

Turfloop is owed R120-million in unpaid student fees.

Minyuku has limited experience of university management. He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

# Future of about 250 Wits students on the line as they apply for readmission

Shar 30/1/99 (54)

By KATHRYN DENHAM

Close to 250 Wits University students, judging on last year's figures, are expected to face re-admission problems this year, with about a third being re-admitted on appeal.

In 1998, a total of 248 faced exclusion, and of these, 86 were readmitted. This year's figure is estimated to be as high, and is still being considered by the faculty readmission committee.

Rob Sharman, senior assistant registrar at the university, said that about the same number could be expected to be excluded for various reasons this year.

One of the reasons for exclusion was that the university aimed to keep the university and its admission standards high.

The process of exclusion was very defined, Sharman explained. The student would need to submit his or her representation to the faculty readmission committee, where five members of the academic staff would be present, including a students' representative.

Should a student be denied the right to register in a particular faculty, he or she could appeal to the council readmission committee.

At this stage the student is advised by the students' representative council.

Mzwakhe Mbatha, chairperson of the SRC's education desk, said a particularly high percentage of students facing exclusion were from a historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

He believes that students should be counselled when choosing their fields of study, and that parents should try to set aside funds for their children's tertiary education.

Mbatha said students might be excluded from the university if payments were not up to date.

This, he said, was a problem because the students could not obtain their results if they had not paid their fees, and therefore could not register. The university did offer financial aid for some of its students.

Two students applying to the council readmission committee

believe there is an anomaly in the way they were dealt with by the faculty readmission committee. One, failing by 3%, was made to feel "no different" to the second student, who failed by 40%.

A students' representative said two major problems had surfaced during the process.

The faculty readmission committee was made up predominantly of lecturers, deans and registrars - and they were not highly sensitive to students' problems.

But the procedure stated that each case was to be considered on its merits.

The faculty readmission committee took into account many considerations, such as ill health, transport problems and academic difficulties.

Sharman said "exclusion" was the wrong word for the process, because students could apply again to another faculty.

The reason for the exclusion process was that the country needed graduates who were capable of doing their jobs, Sharman added.

# Probe into Fort Hare may implicate Bengu

EDUCATION Minister Sibusiso Bengu has been criticised by unions and academic staff at Fort Hare University in the Eastern Cape for not ordering a full probe into alleged financial mismanagement of the institution.

Bengu has repeatedly failed to respond to requests for an independent assessor to investigate allegations of mismanagement at Fort Hare university.

This week the situation at the university reached crisis proportions when salaries were delayed without explanation by university management.

It also emerged that the university would be R70 m in debt by the time it received its government subsidy in April.

Staff have questioned why Bengu, who was Vice-Chancellor of Fort Hare between 1991 and 1994 – had not appointed a probe into the affairs of the university earlier.

A highly placed union source who asked not to be named for fear of reprisals said: "For the minister to approve a commission of enquiry would mean that he was approving a commission to investigate himself." He said not all of the allegations were of present Vice Chancellor Professor Mbulelo Mzamane's making and "even Bengu would have to account for what happened while he was here".

National Tertiary Education Staff Union (Ntesu) publicity officer Nhlanhla Cebekhulu said: "We think that staff members at Fort Hare then were not as vigilant as they are today about the commission of enquiry."

Although salaries were eventually paid, a marathon crisis meeting between management and unions on Tuesday resulted in a coalition of unions confirming a previously unconfirmed vote of no confidence in top management and "the entire council".

They demanded an "immediate intervention" by Bengu.

In a later memorandum, the union coalition called on Bengu to suspend Mzamane (pictured) and two other senior members of the management team – Professor Theo Maqashalala and Dr Isaac Mabindisa.

They have also demanded that an independent assessor be appointed in terms of the Higher Education Act.

The latest memorandum claims the university was de-



**LINE OF FIRE...** Fort Hare University's Vice Chancellor Professor Mbulelo Mzamane.

ducting monies on behalf of employees for PAYE, UIF, pension, medical aid, insurance, cell phone accounts and Eskom for between two and six months but had "unilaterally and fraudulently" not paid the money to the relevant organisations.

It also charges that there was theft and misappropriation of project monies and research grants received by the institution.

Fort Hare Transformation Forum chairperson and National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) tertiary education branch chair Siyabonga Kobesa said the central question was why a commission had not been appointed earlier.

He said: "We are not sure why there were no investigations going as far back as 1996." He said "flaws" had been found by auditors in the financial statements between 1991 and 1997.

The Education Department had also not responded to requests made in 1998 to examine the affairs of the university.

Bengu's spokesperson Bheki Kumalo said the minister would not consider appointing an independent assessor and the allegations did not warrant investigations.

However, Fort Hare will form part of an overall audit of tertiary institutions to be carried out by the Department of Education and the auditor-general.

Also involved with Fort Hare at the time of the alleged mismanagement was Eastern Cape Premier Makhenkesi Stofile. – ECN Weekend Service.

ET 1/2/99  
(54)

## Universities split over redress

**PRETORIA:** Tension between the haves and the have-nots threatened to mar last week's brainstorming retreat here for the 21 members of the South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association (Sauvca), when black members felt they were being treated as the poor relations.

The rift came over the fact that the body's executive strategy plan omitted any mention of redress, and suggested steps to merge several historically disadvantaged universities. After intense and heated delib-

erations the Sauvca executive included equity and redress in its strategic plan.

One head claimed the privileged institutions wanted disadvantaged ones to merge or be shut down so they got a bigger slice of government funding. Sauvca's proposed measures aimed at trimming disadvantaged schools, as well as mergers between the Universities of the North and Venda, the North-West and Potchefstroom and Durban-Westville with Natal, remain on the cards. — Own Correspondent.

# Vice-chancellors set new direction for universities

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

CT 2/2/99

(54)  
SOUTH African universities are expected to be led in a new direction following an intensive "bosberaad" at which their financial crises and other problems have been discussed.

Twenty-one vice-chancellors, all of whom are members of the SA Universities Vice-Chancellors' Association (SAUVCA), have been meeting over the past few months to thrash out a new direction for the association.

University of Capé Town vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphele has been elected the new chair of SAUVCA. With its chief executive officer, Piyushi Kotecha, she will try to steer the country's 21 institutions out of troubled waters.

Past inequities continue to hamper the emergence of a vibrant

higher education sector, it emerged at the bosberaad.

The search for a new direction is particularly urgent in the light of Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's announcement on January 25 of the government's commitment to work for more equitable access to higher education.

A new vision, mission and strategic plan for SAUVCA will be finalised later this month.

Universities are to gain a new legal status following the agreement that they should fall under a single section 21 company. The new status is an important step in transforming higher education as envisaged in the Higher Education Act of 1997.

A SAUVCA interest group focusing on the problems and challenges of health science faculties is to examine issues such as staffing models, curriculum and resources.

# NDE will control teachers' colleges

BY TEFO MOTHIBELI  
Education Reporter

The national Department of Education is to take over the control of teachers' training colleges from provincial governments.

The move is going to result in the national department taking more interest in the day-to-day running of the affairs of these institutions, their management and their budgetary matters.

Khume Kangala, the department's deputy director of communications said yesterday that six provinces had already finalised plans to rationalise some of these institutions.

Some of the colleges are likely to fold and others to merge as a result of

the move, education sources said.

Kangala said some of these colleges may be turned into universities and others will be incorporated into the higher education sector.

At the moment, however, it is not clear how many are to shut down.

"This has to be done because at the moment the system is producing many teachers who cannot find jobs," he said.

Kangala said the surviving colleges would be geared towards producing more teachers who specialise in critical subjects such as mathematics and science.

He added that Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu was expected to make a formal announcement on the development in March.

# Fort Hare's financial affairs to be probed

BY EDWIN NAIDU

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu is to appoint a team to conduct a forensic audit at the University of Fort Hare as student and staff troubles intensify there.

The announcement came after vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzamane yesterday threatened to exclude students who did not make arrangements to pay outstanding fees.

Students owe almost R10-million for 1998.

Bheki Khumalo, spokesperson for Bengu, said the minister had not considered sending an independent assessor to Fort Hare because a probe would form part of an overall audit of institutions being carried out by the department

and the auditor-general.

The team is about to begin its investigation in a week.

Khumalo said students had a responsibility to pay their fees, and management efforts to get them to honour their obligations should be encouraged.

Mzamane, who warned the students in a speech on campus, told *The Star* yesterday that students who did not pay at least half their fees before the end of April for this academic year would be sent home.

He added that, in an unprecedented move, the students' representative council had supported his decision.

"There is still some agitation over unpaid fees but people on campus realise we want to get to the bottom of the matter.

"We need revenue from

students to keep the university functioning. We are standing firm on our decision to withdraw students who do not pay."

Mzamane said the assessor would assist the university in coming to terms with its financial difficulties and make students aware of the urgency of settling their debts.

The financial crisis boiled over a week ago, when employees at the university received their salaries late, after the university had been granted a bank overdraft.

Mzamane said that because of the student debt, the university was battling to make ends meet.

The government subsidy for the new financial year would come into effect only in April, he added.

# 'Let students do community service'

CT 4/2/99

PRISCILLA SINGH  
EDUCATION WRITER

(54)



**FORGIVENESS:** Mamphela Ramphela proposes a "debt forgiveness process" for some students.

PICTURE: DENZIL MAREGELE

UNIVERSITY of Cape Town vice-chancellor and chairperson of the South African Universities Vice-Chancellors' Association, Mamphela Ramphela, proposed yesterday that students repay state financial assistance by doing community service — "as Dr (Nkosasana) Zuma's medical interns are doing".

Ramphela said in an interview that government financial aid to universities should be doubled, so that they would not have to live from crisis to crisis every year.

"The government has a (financial) scheme, but it is inadequate, and a doubling of what is currently available is what is needed," she said.

Government aid for universities this year is R390 million.

"We as a society must find a way for young people to gain access to higher education. The government has got to create a national student financial aid system," Ramphela said.

"This can be linked to other policy initiatives, such as students repaying the government by doing community service, like Dr Zuma's medical interns are doing."

Ramphela said she worked very hard to secure and raise additional resources for UCT so that it could be a "world-class African university".

The university assisted students with aid and bursaries amounting to R64m a year, and this was a "deliberate policy decision".

She added that while universities needed to manage themselves better, students also had a responsibility to preserve higher education structures.

On the crippling financial debt that most historically black universities face, Ramphela said that what was required was a "debt forgiveness process, because the money is never going to be recovered from students".

Ramphela said that at its meeting in Pretoria last week the vice-chancellors' association had confronted divisions "with a real sense of being honest and open and also acknowledging limitations that universities are faced with".

The association's Redress Committee had been renamed the Equity Committee because all members agreed that the emphasis should be on equity rather than redress.

"Equity includes redress, but also encompasses a focus on goals of enabling all higher education institutions to deliver excellence for each student.

"Given the limitations of our (universities') resource base, we must make sure that the institutional landscape meets the needs of South Africa.

"For the past year or so, we have had meetings to look at how we could transform the association into a credible, united voice that could speak with authority.

"We have succeeded enormously in making important inroads and came out of those meetings with decisions to take action," Ramphela said.



(54)

## Vista University gets exam results to die for

MTG 5-11/2/99

### Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

**V**ista University's final 1998 examination results improved dramatically — and some lecturers admit this was after they received death threats from students.

Lectures at the university's five campuses were disrupted last year by a student boycott, and the final examinations were postponed for two weeks after students said they needed more time to prepare.

But the university recorded a startling improvement in its results compared to recent years.

Lecturers at the university — who refused to be named for fear of attacks from students — said this was because they were threatened that they would be shot if they did not increase students' marks.

Vista Sebokeng campus registrar, Tami Plaatjie, conceded they had problems last year, but denied that the improvement in the pass rate was because of death threats. "At present nothing like that has been established as far as I know, and there is no official complaint from anyone."

Vista's vice-chancellor Hue Afrika has a letter from his lecturing staff outlining the problems they

face. A staffer said the letter, sent in November 1998, was aimed at addressing the "pressing issue" of death threats and "a way forward".

Plaatjie said he was not aware of the letter and said staff problems were always addressed.

"All departments at Sebokeng and other Vista campuses have been affected by this matter. We cannot allow this to happen, what kind of students are we going to produce?" asked one of the lecturers.

"Vista students, particularly here at Sebokeng, always cause havoc during the examinations saying they are not prepared to write exams even when they know the dates months in advance," a senior official said.

The Student Representative Council said last year that students were not prepared to write examinations as the timetables were "congested" and lecturers were not well prepared.

Another lecturer said the staffers at the Sebokeng English department definitely received death threats.

English department head Devi Sarinjeive said she could not comment on the matter as her contract did not allow her to speak to the media.

# Fort Hare probe ordered

THE Education Ministry is to send a special investigator to troubled Fort Hare University to probe claims of financial mismanagement, Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu announced yesterday.

He said the investigator, who has not been named yet, would go there "almost immediately".

Fort Hare vice chancellor Professor Mbulelo Mzamane told university staff last week that the institution would be about R70 million in the red by the time it received its government subsidy in April.

Bengu told journalists yesterday that the assessor would be additional to the detailed audits which had been ordered for Fort Hare and several other universities.

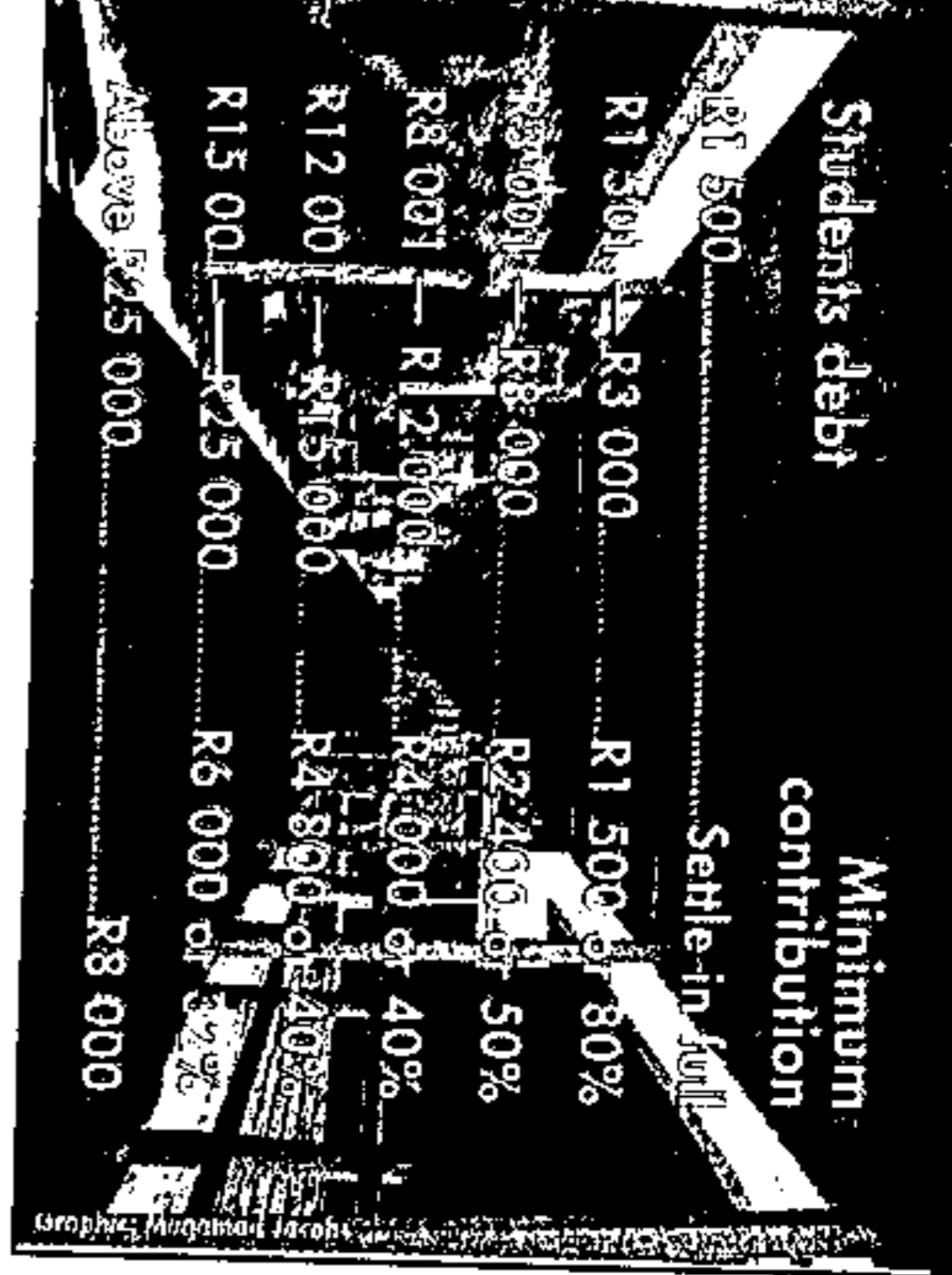
Director-general of education Professor Chabani Manganyi said the decision to send in an assessor followed a visit to the university on Wednesday by an official of the department's higher education branch.

This official had spoken to the university management, transformation forum and deans, and these discussions had indicated that there was a "very severe crisis" on the campus.

Manganyi said the assessor would be drawn from a panel of experts established by the Council for Higher Education.

It is understood that the panel includes names such as former University of the Western Cape principal Professor Jaap Durand, and former University of Cape Town vice chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders. — Sapa.

**MINIMUM REPAYMENT OF STUDENT DEBT**



# UWC still R40 million in the red as deal is forged

PRISCILLA SINGH (54)  
EDUCATION WRITER  
21/12/99

THE University of the Western Cape (UWC) has reached an amicable agreement with students towards alleviating its staggering student debt — until yesterday in excess of R45 million.

The Registrar, Finance Informed Rector Cecil Abrahams said the university had managed to bring the amount down to about R40 million after receiving some payments.

Members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) and UWC management have held meetings over the past few

weeks to try and resolve the financial crisis. In a joint statement, the parties said that if the debt was not properly managed, the university would find it difficult to sustain its normal operations.

In order to register for the 1999 academic year, new resident students are required to pay R2 500 up-front while non-resident students will be required to pay R2 000. A sliding scale of payments has been agreed upon by the SRC and management for returning students.

"Despite our desperate financial situation, we are prepared to employ measures to assist the destitute to further their education," said the statement.

Abrahams said the university was well-known for assisting students from historically disadvantaged communities, because 90% of the students at UWC came from such backgrounds. "It is the government's view, and many others', that students make a contribution towards paying for their education and we accept this.

"While we appreciate the increase in government funding for higher education, we still implore government to process the redress fund as a means of alleviating the burden of historically disadvantaged institutions.

"Notwithstanding governmental intervention, students must contribute towards

their own education," he said.

The university also plans to launch a Masakhane campaign by the end of this month. It will serve to enhance students' understanding of the university's desperate financial situation.

SRC president Ntsho Ntshomboni said they were committed to securing the future of UWC.

"We are assured that UWC will move with peace this year rather than the riots which plagued the campus last year," Ntshomboni said.

A debt collection unit, which was formed last year, will keep track of payments and ensure nobody defaults. Stu-

dents who do not have the full minimum contribution will be subject to a stringent interview process to determine the factors affecting payment.

In the event of the parent or surety defaulting on the payment plan and after sufficient warnings have been given, food credits will be frozen, residence access will be denied in the second semester and, finally, students will be de-registered after consultation with the SRC.

Ntshomboni said: "If student debts continue to escalate, UWC will have to close. I am appealing to those who care about their university to get down on their knees and help in whatever way they can."

## Six universities under microscope

CORNIA PRETORIUS (54)

ST 7/2/99

THE government is to probe the financial affairs of six South African universities.

The Minister of Education, Sibusiso Bengu, has asked the Office of the Auditor-General to conduct investigations into the money matters of the Medical University of South Africa and the universities of Fort Hare, the North, Transkei, North West and Zululand.

Nasima Badsha, deputy director-general of higher education in the national Department of Education, said it was likely other institutions would be added to the list later.

Persistent crises prompted the investigations, which were aimed at finding the root of financial problems and taking steps to improve the financial running of institutions, she said.

Fort Hare, which is due to reopen tomorrow, will also face a probe by an independent assessor after claims of alleged mismanagement

at the institution were raised by staff and workers last week.

Fort Hare has become the second university this year to have its reopening threatened. Last month Medunsa closed after a student protest when it refused to readmit indebted students.

But Fort Hare's problems aren't only about student debt. The institution is facing a deficit of between R50- and R70-million, has outstanding student debt of about R10-million and has been surviving on a monthly overdraft of R40-million.

# New student threat looms at UWC

(54) ARLT 9/2/99

**BEAUREGARD TROMP**  
STAFF REPORTER

**A threat looms over the newly-found peace at the University of the Western Cape, based on a deal hammered out last week between the Student Representative Council and the university administration.**

A group of students, calling themselves the interim SRC, have declared that there might be a repeat of last year's disruptions if the university administration does not negotiate with them. They want student debt scrapped and wider consultation.

At the end of last year, students disrupted the university and police

were called in to remove them.

Last week, the democratically elected SRC of 1997, regarded as legitimate by the university executive, signed an agreement whereby students would pay a minimum of R2 000 at registration with resident students paying an extra R500.

In addition, students owing money would have to pay between 30% and 80% of their outstanding fees.

Special arrangements would be made for those who were not able to meet these minimum contributions with academic performance, payment record and family financial situation being taken into account.

A Masakhane plan to enhance understanding of the university's

financial crisis was also agreed.

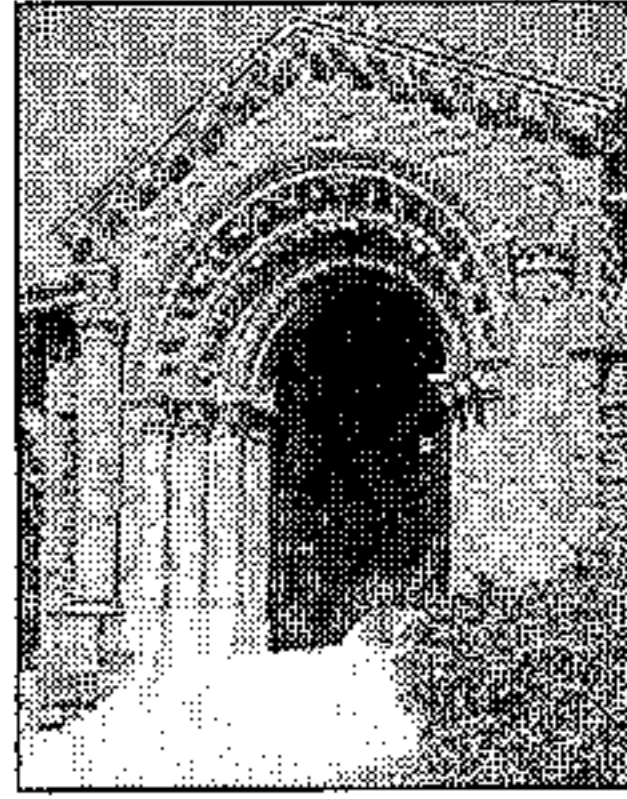
The interim SRC has called for this agreement to be ignored, claiming about 7 000 students face exclusion because of the "illegitimate deal" agreed to in the past week.

The interim SRC was elected by students at a protest meeting last year after it was decided that full elections could not be held because of the unrest at the university at the time.

Interim SRC member Michael Canham said that excluding academically viable students on financial grounds "goes against the tradition of the university to provide education to the financially marginalised".

Mr Canham said his group was "keen to meet the UWC executive.

(54)



## Keeping tertiary education afloat

Star 11/2/99

Payment of fees will ensure a sustainable scheme for future generations, says Bheki Khumalo

**S**ome higher education institutions are facing serious financial problems. These problems go far deeper than headline stories about student fees, institutions on the verge of collapse or disruptions that occur at the start of each academic year, although these are significant indicators of the magnitude of the problems.

What is at stake is nothing less than the extent to which government and the tertiary sector are able to put the higher education system right and position it for the 21st century. Four years into the democratic dispensation, higher education institutions are owed about R500-million and this is expected to change when we receive final figures.

No institution can be expected to function effectively when weighed down with such a formidable debt. The non-payment of fees is caused by many factors. Let's deal with a few of them.

The existence of a high level of political activity on campuses has created a situation where some students and, even SRCs, have decided to use student activism as a sanctuary from academic demands. Instead of these students going to institutions to study, they have gone only to be active in SRCs and student formations. It is, therefore, not a surprise that such students lead most disruptions.

These students reject what they call financial exclusions, when in fact they have been excluded largely on the basis of multiple academic failures. Of course, these are students who would not qualify to receive allocations provided for in the national students' financial aid scheme.

Last year, in one prominent historically disadvantaged university, students embarked on disruptive behaviour after more than 3 000 of them had been excluded on the basis of academic failures.

**G**overnment is committed to the view that poor family backgrounds should not deny talented students access to higher education. In some cases student representative councils, instead of being vehicles for taking students' grievances to management, have become structures of extortion where feared and corrupt individuals reign supreme.

All these examples do not mean it is wrong to be a student activist or belong to a student organisation. Far from it. What we need is a cadre of students who are disciplined and committed to the cause of the consolidation of our nascent democracy. In our engagement with structures of the democratic movement, we have discerned an under-

standing of the magnitude facing the democratic state and we have no doubt it will rise to the challenge.

The Government spends a lot of money each year awarding subsidies to these institutions. In 1998/99 more than R6,5-billion was allocated to this sector. Government has put education first among its list of priorities and therefore this demands that we get a much better return.

**L**ast month, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu announced an allocation of R390-million towards the National Students' Financial Aid Scheme for the 1999 academic year. Since 1994 state contribution to the scheme has amounted to just under R1,7-billion and translates to about 264 402 awards to students to date. This contribution will go a long way in giving access to tertiary education for academically able yet financially needy students.

With students and their families rests the responsibility to ensure that their contributions to tuition and other fees are timeously paid and that loans are repaid. Without such commitment we shall not be able to ensure the existence of a sustainable scheme to benefit future generations.

With the higher education institutions rests the responsibility to ensure that the resources at their disposal are efficiently managed, and that debts owed are paid. Our vision of building excellent universities and technikons in order to build a globally competitive nation will not be realised unless these institutions are placed on a sound financial footing.

The challenge magnified by non-payment of student fees does not mean we do not have the fortitude to solve the problems. Far from it. Ours is a remarkable story of higher education transformation.

This has vastly increased the numbers of majority students, restructured curricula to focus more on science and technology, and eliminated or made major strides towards eliminating many of the most egregious injustices of apartheid.

■ *Khumalo is the spokesperson for the education minister*

(54) ET 12/2/99  
**'Immature' bid to scrap UWC deal**

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

A GROUP of students calling themselves the Interim SRC are threatening to destabilise agreements reached between students and management over fee payments at the University of the Western Cape.

The recognised and legitimately elected Student Representative Council and UWC management are standing by their agreement signed last week.

The agreement outlined the different payment benchmarks that students needed to pay in order to register this year. Compulsory payment of a portion of the fees would also help alleviate the UWC stu-

dent debt of about R40 million.

The Interim SRC, with fewer than 10 members, held a meeting yesterday in an attempt to get students to reject the agreement.

Wanga Sigila, secretary-general of the UWC SRC, said: "This Interim SRC is coming with ridiculous demands of scrapping debt entirely and trying to get students not to pay their fees.

"The new SRC elections are in a month and this Interim SRC is crying wolf to the students and trying to make themselves look as if they are doing them a favour. But the students, fortunately, are too mature for those tactics," he said.

Michael Canham, who is apparently the leader of the Interim SRC, could not be reached for comment.

JANET HEARD

**T**HE University of the Western Cape opens for registration this week with a debt of R49-million and a call to reject a deal struck between the SRC and the university executive.

A student group, calling itself the interim SRC, has said the student debt agreement was illegitimate and warned of possible campus disruptions if the university executive does not negotiate with it.

Last week the executive and the democratically elected SRC of 1997, which the university regards as the legitimate student body, signed an agreement to alleviate the debt crisis plaguing the university.

The university last year recovered about R15-million through a similar agreement and it hopes to recover about R21-million under the new agreement, leaving R18-million in arrears, said the rector's executive assistant, Alwyn van Gensen.

"We are optimistic that students will honour this agreement to ensure a smooth start to the academic year," he said.

Confusion about the SRC arose after elections — due in August last year — were postponed because of disruptions on campus, which resulted in the police being called in.

SRC president Ntsie Netshitomboni said it took "only a few people" to cause a lot of disruption and he hoped that peace would prevail.

"It is a very fair agreement and students recognise that they must make a financial contribution."

In terms of the deal, resident students must pay R2 500 and other students R2 000 to register. In addition, students in arrears must pay between 30 and 80 percent of their debt before they can be registered. The percentage depends on the amount owed, which ranges from R1 500 to more than R25 000.

The agreement recognises that "failure to pay will seriously impact on our

ability to teach students this year".

Special arrangements will be made for students finding it difficult to meet the minimum laid down. These cases will be assessed individually through an interview with parents or the financial guardians.

The agreement also paves the way for a Masakhane campaign to address the plight of indigent students. A preparatory committee is to be set up this month to increase fund-raising efforts and to lobby the government.

The opposition group — which consists mostly of representatives of the Azanian Students Convention, the Student League and the Pan Africanist Student Movement — is attempting to meet the executive to discuss its demands. It has said thousands of students face exclusion in terms of the deal.

The group will call a mass meeting on Wednesday to discuss further action, said spokesman Ludumo Sishuba.

He said the group objected to certain conditions set out in the agreement and insisted his group was the legitimate interim SRC. "We were elected at an AGM at the end of last year and this is the SRC's highest decision-making body."

However, the 1997 SRC said that the so-called election had been unconstitutional — it could not take place through a mass meeting at an AGM but had to be overseen by an independent authority.

Van Gensen said this week that until SRC elections took place — hopefully in March — the legitimate SRC was the group that was elected in 1997.

"There is no such thing as an interim SRC. We are hearing disturbing sounds from this group, which is not a recognised structure."

"While the UWC will always listen to all voices and hear all opinions, we cannot recognise them as a structure," he said.

"Our mission statement is clear: we will assist disadvantaged students. But students recognise that they must contribute. We wish to see the university open smoothly and to see an end to the disgruntlement that we usually have at the beginning of the year."

UWC student group threatens disruption if university executive refuses to negotiate  
(54) ST(CM) 14/2/99

# CAMPUS CONFUSION



# UWC wants its BA grads to 'bite' in

## the future

(74) CT 17/2/99

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

IT'S BEING hailed as the BA with a bite and is geared towards meeting students' needs and eventually affording graduates the edge in the job market.

The University of the Western Cape begins its restructured Bachelor of Arts degree this academic year with a programme that has "intellectual bite". Offered for the first time this year, the second- and third-year programmes will be introduced in 2000 and 2001.

Masters student Colleen Haupt said: "The programme will not only make a student more marketable within three years, but will open up new avenues previously closed to UWC graduates."

Luti Makaleng, a 1998 BA graduate, said that the practical component, as well as the wide range of options on offer, were very exciting features of the new restructured BA degree.

The first aspect of the course will deal with the needs of new students and lays a strong foundation of language, study and critical thinking skills and will also give students a wider range of possibilities for further study.

From day one, students meet inter-disciplinary approaches to topical issues. The focused senior programmes will make it easier for new BA graduates to enter the job market. Programmes include belief systems, world views and values, crime and social control, culture and media, culture and society, gender studies, health care, historical studies, African and South African studies, language, communication and tourism.

New offerings in the languages include Afrikaans and Nederlands, Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Latin and Xhosa.

UWC is offering bursaries to 100 first-year students. Registration begins today and ends on Thursday in the old arts faculty building from 9am - 4.30pm.

● All first-year students must report at the UWC stadium at 9am today for the start of the orientation programme. Parents and guardians are also welcome to attend.

# Tentacles of the past

## INSIDE STORY

**JEFF LEVER**, professor of social anthropology and head of the department at the University of the Western Cape, says the current crisis facing the institution has its roots firmly in the past

The University of the Western Cape begins this academic year more than usually demoralised.

Rector Cecil Abrahams is distrusted, academic staff expect more layoffs, and more than a third of the 600 administrative and service staff have applied for redundancy.

And student debt remains high at R46-million.

Last year Professor Abrahams insisted students settle or reduce their debt - then running at R63-million.

By mid-October he was the object of an unprecedented vote of censure from the senate; faculty meetings passed motions of no confidence; academic and administrative staff associations demanded his resignation.

Professor Abrahams's aim could be considered laudable: the need for a tough cost-cutting strategy. In the face of a deficit - reported to be around R16-million and a R4-million bank overdraft - management rejected Nehawu's annual wage demands.

It offered nothing for 1998 and only 5% for this year, and planned to retrench 41 permanent academic staff and abolish 50 posts that were vacant.

The average staff-student ratio is 27:1.

Had he been candid early in 1998, it is likely academics would have seen the need for cost cutting.

The 41 academics received their retrenchment notices over the last weekend of September - immediately after the rector had assured specially convened groups of academics there would be no retrenchments in 1998.

The full story of Professor Abrahams's fall from grace awaits the candid analysis of his former senior colleagues who have now left the university.

UWC is still subject to all the problems which a part of the id bequeathed these institutions. An atrocious school system still produces poorly educated young people who enter institutions such as UWC with high aspirations but low capacity in crucial areas such as English language competence and numeracy. They are also often desperately poor and even the much lower fees are beyond their means.

The education they receive is a passable imitation of traditional South African undergraduate tuition;



**Richard van der Ross:** preached virtues of hard work

facilities are inadequate; the library is understocked, poorly run and user-unfriendly; and there is only one walk-in computer lab for non-science students.

All these factors have their roots in the past. UWC opened its doors in 1960 with 162 coloured students, only five of them women. It was situated in Proteaville (the name never stuck) a desolate area of Bellville-South.

A series of undistinguished Broederbond rectors and a largely Afrikaner staff presided over students. This autocratic white management ran the place like a high school and refused to allow the student representative council real powers.

In 1975 the government moved to head off mounting resentment by appointing the first coloured rector.

For the next 18 years Richard (Dick) van der Ross and Gerhardus Johannes (Jakes) Gerwel led UWC.

But just two months after the Soweto uprising in June 1976, a tidal wave of student protest engulfed the UWC campus. The new rector's insistence on the need for an educated population as well as political change was of limited appeal to the increasingly radical students.

Professor Van der Ross preached the virtues of hard work, good manners and humane values to a constituency in which many considered him a sell-out.

Matric results of new students were on average low - and fees were kept down to enable poorer students to enter.

The development of most consequence was the rapid growth in student numbers. The moderate growth of the first 20 years now became a series of annual jumps.

This trend, aided by the generous admission policies and fee structures, began under Professor Van der Ross and not, as subsequent critics have alleged, under the rectorship of Professor Gerwel.

The latter's high-profile stance in favour of People's Education and the



**Jakes Gerwel:** introduced a new rhetoric

widening of educational opportunities for the country's disenfranchised population was a reflection of more insistent demographic trends which had already surfaced during Professor Van der Ross's tenure.

On his appointment in 1985, Professor Gerwel distinguished himself from his predecessor in the following words: "I am from a younger generation with a good dose of Marxism as critical paradigm ... I come from a generation which says that politics always plays a role; academy and the university also have a real role to bring about political change ... I am becoming rector at a time when the crisis of authority, the crisis of legitimacy - of the state and the government is not any longer just a theoretical construction but is written in huge letters in every house, every school and the university".

The new rhetoric spoke of non-racism, non-sexism, democratisation, socialism and accountability to the oppressed. For a brief time, UWC and its diminutive rector seemed to encapsulate the resistance of the population of the Western Cape to a crumbling white supremacy.

But all this came at a price: instability plagued the university.

Boycotts and the nefarious activities of the student "disruption squads" who enforced boycott decisions by disrupting classes and attacking students in the library, remained as much a feature of UWC as under Professor Van der Ross.

The haze of People's Education rhetoric of the late 1980s could not altogether disguise the more lasting developments that have placed UWC in its present predicament.

First was the huge growth in student numbers and the strain this placed on the campus. Numbers alone have never been the only problem.

From 1984 to 1994 more than 80% of new students were entering with a D or E matric aggregate.

Worse, more than half of this 80% had entered with E aggregates.

The most direct expression of this poor matric performance is to be found at the level of English-language competence.

An internal UWC study in 1995 showed a strong link between poor matric performance and the failure rate at the university.

In many departments less than half of the E aggregate students were passing their first-year exams and less than 60% of the D aggregates.

But in a climate of outspoken pressure from students and unspoken pressure from the administration to increase the pass rate, this situation had to change.

Anecdotal evidence from lecturers is replete with stories of student pressure and the silent conspiracy of many academics to avoid a student backlash by passing 90% or more of their class - while privately bemoaning the quality of their academic performance.

The contrast with the neighbouring University of Stellenbosch is stark. Here 80% of students enter with matric aggregates of C and above.

As UWC management never tires of pointing out, the university is performing a most useful function - for UCT and Stellenbosch.

In taking in the large number of weak students that it does, it acts as a buffer for its neighbours, shielding them from the worst effects of the crisis of the educational system.

For lecturers at UWC the standard of education of the average undergraduate is the main fact of a depressing daily life.

There seems to be an obvious solution: compel students with low matric marks to undergo a testing process in which those not equipped to cope with the most rudimentary university work are screened out.

But this runs not only against the national goal of higher education expansion but directly against the self-interest of the university's staff.

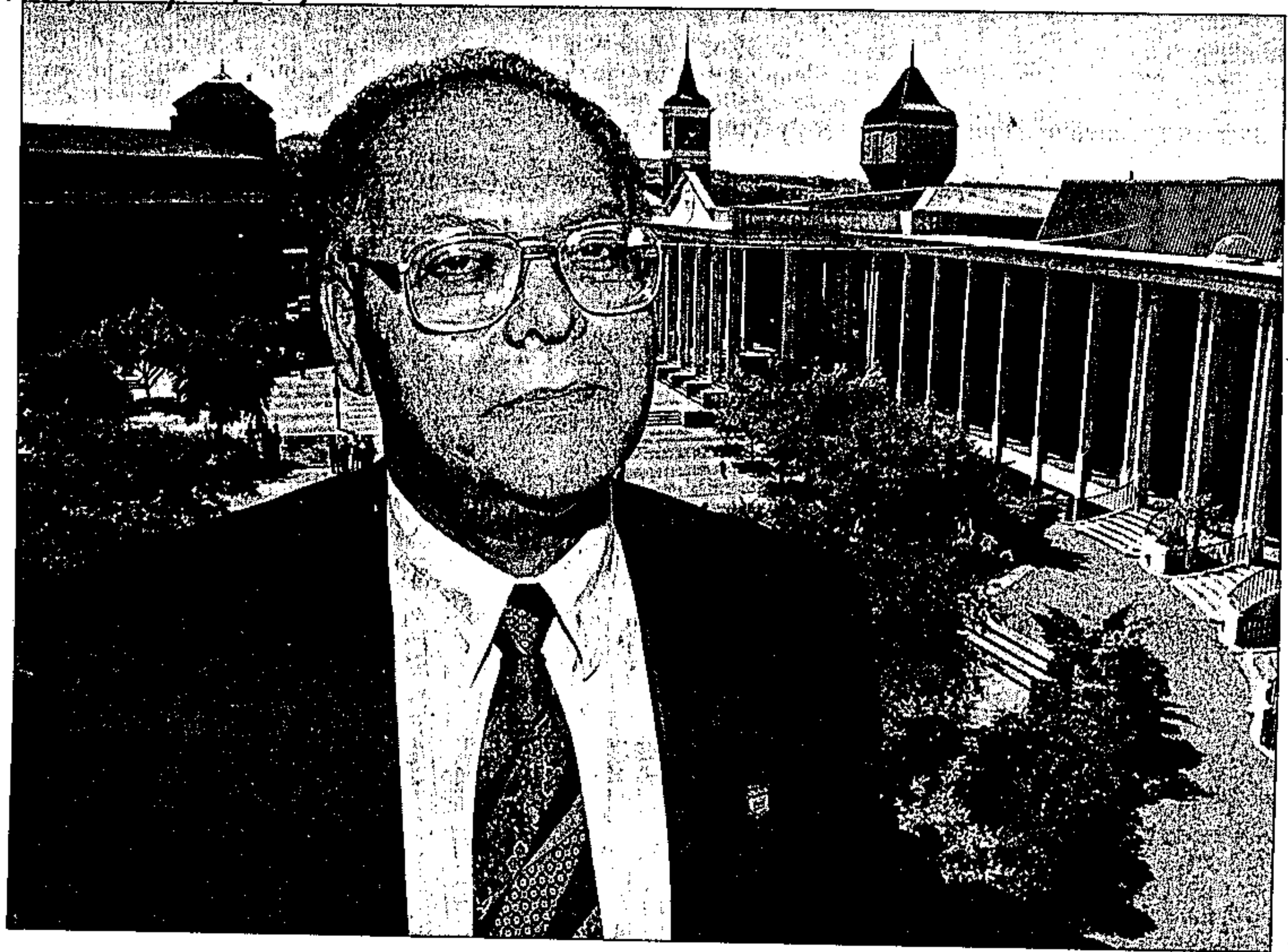
Half the state subsidy is calculated on the numbers of students enrolled, while the other half of the subsidy is calculated on the numbers of students who pass.

Ideally, students should enrol en masse and pay their fees, a situation which UWC administrators devoutly desire. Hence the action at the beginning of 1998.

*'I am from a younger generation with a good dose of Marxism as critical paradigm ...'*

# past still grip UWC

(54) ARG 16/2/99



iced a new rhetoric

An internal UWC study in 1995 showed a strong link between poor matric performance and the failure rate at the university.

In many departments less than half of the E aggregate students were passing their first-year exams and less than 60% of the D aggregates.

But in a climate of outspoken pressure from students and unspoken pressure from the administration to increase the pass rate, this situation had to change.

Anecdotal evidence from lecturers is replete with stories of student pressure and the silent conspiracy of many academics to avoid a student backlash by passing 90% or more of their class – while privately bemoaning the quality of their academic performance.

The contrast with the neighbouring University of Stellenbosch is stark. Here 80% of students enter with matric aggregates of C and above.

As UWC management never tires of pointing out, the university is performing a most useful function – for JCT and Stellenbosch.

In taking in the large number of weak students that it does, it acts as a buffer for its neighbours, shielding them from the worst effects of the crisis of the educational system.

For lecturers at UWC the standard education of the average undergraduate is the main fact of a depressing daily life.

There seems to be an obvious solution: compel students with low matric marks to undergo a testing process in which those not equipped to cope with the most rudimentary university-work are screened out.

But this runs not only against the national goal of higher education expansion but directly against the self-interest of the university's staff.

Half the state subsidy is calculated on the numbers of students enrolled, while the other half of the subsidy is calculated on the numbers of students who pass.

Ideally, students should enrol en masse and pay their fees, a situation which UWC administrators devoutly desire. Hence the action at the beginning of 1998.

Professor Cecil Abrahams: facing another tough year of mounting student debt, and distrust from academic and support staff

But those senior managers who have to deal with the daily reality of student life have no such illusions and urge that all be registered.

The large numbers of students with an E matric thus continue to enrol, and fail – or worse, scrape through with 50% due to lecturers adopting a marking strategy guaranteeing the least student pressure.

Lip service is paid to “academic development”. An Academic Development Centre exists, but scratches the surface of a mammoth remedial task – in the current fiscal crisis is threatened with sharp staff cutbacks.

The history of academic development at UWC is a saga in itself. In line with its self-proclaimed “progressive” ethos, the idea of academic development to address the academic incapacity of most students began to be debated under Professor Gerwel in the late 1980s.

The outcome was the so-called “infusion” model. Since it was agreed that it was the majority of students who came from poor school backgrounds, academic development was to be suffused throughout the whole lecturing corps.

Every academic was to be his or her own remedial teacher. Few voices were raised to point out the folly of this idea.

Anyone acquainted with universities knows that lecturing capacity is very unevenly spread among the ranks of academics. Many brilliant researchers are simply not good classroom material.

At most universities this variation in lecturing abilities is not a major problem – students learn to cope with even the worst of teachers.

At UWC, however, it was precisely

this student competence which was, and is, lacking.

Needless to say, the expected infusion of academic development expertise throughout the staff has failed to materialise.

The second watershed of Professor Gerwel's period was the demolition of the previous ethnic base of the student population.

Professor Van der Ross introduced the policy that UWC should become an open university. But it was only under Professor Gerwel that rapid growth in the numbers of African first language students happened – rising from 400 in 1986 to 4 308 in 1992 (from 5% of the total student population to 34%). Today students with an African first language comprise most of new entrants – and the vast majority in faculties such as arts.

This transition from segregation to openness was inevitable and desirable, but its consequences were neither foreseen nor rationally planned for.

The most important result is that English became the de facto language of tuition.

Until the late 1980s tuition was bilingual. From 1988 the growth in students with an African first language started a slide to monolingualism and the abandonment of Afrikaans classes.

This may be the major reason for the sharp decline in the number of coloured students.

The influx of African students was

probably another reason for the decline in coloured enrolments.

The third and most ominous trend to emerge under Professor Gerwel was student debt. Lacking private endowments, living on thin or absent reserves and catering for a student population from poor backgrounds, UWC was never financially secure.

But it could stagger along on its subsidy and bursaries.

The lack of financial viability of the former black universities has festered throughout the 1990s.

With the advent of Professor Abrahams and the adoption of a conventional university ethos, the ever-present gap between rhetoric and reality has become acutely evident, except to Government.

Few commissions can have been as disappointing as the National Commission on Higher Education,

which chose to avert its face from truly radical reform.

The idea of redress funding has become something of a joke, with 17 institutions to share R27-million.

Last month for the first time the ministry seemed to promise action with the announcement of a summit on student debt.

The pretence is made that all the former bush colleges are true universities: UWC probably comes closest to that illusory accolade. But it is not going to make it on its own.

(With acknowledgements to the Helen Suzman Foundation and Focus Magazine).

***‘The expected infusion of academic development expertise ... has failed to materialise’***

BUDGET 1999

# Education spending increased R2,18bn with higher learning to benefit

Pinarashini Pillay

EDUCATION again took up the biggest chunk of this year's budget and the higher education sector is to benefit most.

More than R43,5bn was allocated to education which is R2,18bn or 4,7% higher than what was spent last year.

Of this year's budget, R7,02bn will go to the national education department and the remaining R41,5bn will be distributed to the nine

Teachers' unions criticise total allocation increase of 4,7% as being negative when inflation is taken into account

Provinces — a slight increase on last year. Provincial administrations will decide on how they spend this money.

Of the national education allocation, R6,2bn will be spent on higher education compared with R5,7bn spent in 1998.

Education ministry spokesman Bheki Khumalo said the new allocation was 8,16% higher

than the previous year when R6,49bn was distributed to the department. This provided the department with more money for training and a 9,07% increase to R6,2bn in subsidies.

"In real terms this means that funding levels will stay the same and this will provide for possible student growth," Khumalo said.

He said R11m was allocated for financial

management training in the department and the provinces. The new budget boosted the Redress Fund, aimed at bridging the chasm between disadvantaged and advantaged universities, by R66m.

Financial aid for students has been increased to R390m from R300m, meaning more students will be able to access universities and

technicians, Khumalo said.

The National Professional Teachers' Organisation of SA said that in real terms the budget had not increased and was not enough to tackle enrolment growth, elimination of backlogs and the inflation rate.

Director of the Centre for Education Policy Development John Pampallis said: "This is a

cut in real terms because inflation is at 6% or 7% and the increase is 4,7%," he said.

Prof Joe Telto of the University of the North West welcomed the increased budget for higher education, but cautioned that while black institutions were allocated a Redress Fund, the progress of historically white institutions should not be stifled.

The SA Students' Congress said the allocation to higher education was commendable but called for the scrapping of student debt.

112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120

# Stick to agreement, students told

ET 17/2/99

(54)

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

A STRONG appeal was made to students at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) yesterday to adhere to the fees payment agreement signed by management and the Students' Representative Council (SRC) last week.

At the first mass meeting for the 1999 academic year yesterday, attended by more than 500 students, the UWC SRC outlined the processes and terms of agreement for the payment of fees.

Some students expressed reservations about paying a minimum of R2 000 to register (R2 500 for residence students) while others claimed that the SRC did not have a mandate from the students to conclude such an agreement with management.

SRC chairman Ntsie Netshitomboni said they had obtained a mandate from students last year to negotiate the fee structure with management and he was satisfied that the SRC had acted in the best interests of the student body.

Spokesperson Thabo Masombuko also appealed to students not to lie about their personal details or the employment background of their parents.

"If your mother or father is working, do not say that they are unemployed. Also, if you cannot afford to pay we, the SRC, will help as much as we can. But we cannot help those who do not tell the truth," Masombuko said.

UWC is saddled with a debt of about R39 million in unpaid student fees from last year and previous years. To ensure a smooth and riot-free beginning for UWC this

year, the SRC and management negotiated a speedy agreement in a bid to alleviate the debt and ensure that students honoured payments.

The agreement, which is essentially the same as one negotiated last year, has a few clauses to ensure that students do cough up the money. In addition to a debt collection unit, food credits could be frozen.

If students continue to be defiant, in spite of management and the SRC doing all they can to effect payment, they will be barred from residence in the second semester or de-registered.

Meanwhile, a minority group calling themselves the Interim SRC at UWC are still adamant that the agreement signed between the elected SRC and management is not legitimate because they were not part of the consulting process.

# Universities welcome bigger share

ANDREA BOTHA  
STAFF REPORTER

ARG 18/2/99

## EDUCATION

Western Cape universities have welcomed their increased subsidy allocations.

Mr Manuel announced the national education budget would grow from R48,5-billion in 1999 to R54-billion in 2001.

This money will go mainly go to tertiary institutions as the national government is responsible for higher education.

Hugh Amoore, registrar of the University of Cape Town, welcomed UCT's allocation which had increased from R293-million to R305-million.

He was also happy about government plans to extend the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

Spokesman for the University of the Western Cape, Alwyn van Gensen,

(54)  
said while the increase was welcome and positive, "we still have a way to go in addressing the past imbalances".

UWC's allocation will rise from R152-million to R162-million this year.

Stellenbosch University will receive R299-million this year compared with last year's subsidy of R275-million.

Universities will this year get R4,4-billion compared to R4,1 billion last year.

Technikons will get R1,7-billion compared to R1,5-billion last year.

# Sasco demo over UCT student debts

LYNNE RIPPEVAAR  
STAFF REPORTER

8 (54)

**The Student Representative Council of the University of Cape Town is split over the exclusion of students this year for financial reasons.**

A handful of SRC members, who are also members of SA Students Congress (Sasco), demonstrated in front of the financial aid offices on campus yesterday and

are to hand over a protest memorandum today.

Lucian Segami, who described himself as president of the SRC, said financial aid was being incorrectly distributed, that there was not enough student accommodation and that academic exclusions affected mostly black students.

UCT director of communications Helen Zille said the university had a very clear policy that a student could not be registered if

ARG 18/2/99

he had not made arrangements for their debt to be paid. "If there is a student who is good academically and who is struggling financially ... we will make an effort (to help the student)," she said.

Professor Martin West, deputy vice-chancellor of student affairs, said the SRC did not have a president at this stage and that Mr Segami had been academically excluded from the university on the basis of his results.

# Parents to have bigger say in varsity fee payment after misuse

Star 20/2/99 (54)  
By MOSES MTHETHELELI MACKAY

Not all students in debt to the University of the Western Cape are poor - some spend the money their parents give them for their tuition on cell-phones, electronic gadgets, furniture and expensive clothes, according to fellow students.

Nzie Netshitomboni, president of the UWC students' representative council, said some students misused money, but they were in the minority.

The university is owed R39-million - a figure expected to drop to about R18-million when registration fees have been paid.

Netshitomboni said the elected SRC wanted parents to be directly involved in the payment of fees but this was strongly opposed by the interim SRC, which is engaged in a power struggle with the elected body.

The interim SRC opposed the agreement signed between the elected SRC and the university on the payment of current and outstanding fees.

Netshitomboni called for a proper investigation into the misuse of money by students and for parents to be involved in their children's education.

"If a student who owes the university is found to have misused their money, they won't be helped by the SRC," he said.

UWC spokesperson Alwyn van Gensen said that in any student community, a minority group would misuse money, but that most students used money responsibly.

He said a new system, introduced last year, involved parents more directly in payments and would combat irresponsible behaviour. Van Gensen said the university had been encouraged by the success of last year's debt collection scheme and was convinced it would do well this year.

In the past, students paid their fees themselves, but now parents had to be involved in the process. Previously, students had lied about their personal details or the employment background of their parents, but new institutional measures would prevent this.

Thabo Masombuka, spokesperson for the elected SRC, urged students to accept responsibility for their studies.

Nyameko Mgoqi, of the interim SRC, said the university would return to the same crisis as last year because the same agreement had been signed.



# UCT takes leap forward

BOBBY JORDAN

(54)

ST(CM) 21/2/99

THE University of Cape Town has announced a major step forward in the transformation of its key governing bodies — the result of two years of careful planning and preparation.

The move involves changes to the constitutions of the both the University Council and Senate.

Commenting on the changes in the University's weekly mouthpiece *The*

*Monday Paper*, UCT registrar Hugh Amoore said the changes would give substance to agreements reached through negotiation on the University Transformation Forum. There would also be a change to the process for the election of the chancellor.

He said he hoped the changes would be approved by Parliament in the current session. "If this happens, UCT will have elections for a new council in the second quarter as well as the election of a chancellor, as the chancellorship has been vacant since Mr (Harry) Oppenheimer retired over two years ago," Amoore said.

Other changes this year will include a new faculty structure, a new student affairs department, the introduction of a wide range of new degree programmes and an interim institutional forum to replace the transformation forum.

The forum would pave the way for a new management forum representing the council, senate, the executive, students and staff — as required by the Higher Education Bill.

# Concern at plight of universities

Falling student enrolments and  
financial problems bedevil their future

STAR 22/2/99

By EDWIN NAIDU

**A**larm bells are ringing at former black universities as student enrolment continues to drop, the amount of unpaid fees escalates and the government subsidy is insufficient to bail these bodies out of their difficulties.

The heads of the former historically disadvantaged universities (HDUs) met in Cape Town at the weekend to discuss, among other issues, the decline in student numbers and the apparent unwillingness of the Government to deal positively with these universities.

The University of Fort Hare has had its enrolment for this year slashed from about 5 000 to just 2 000; at the University of the North (Turfloop), numbers dropped from 9 000 to 5 000; at the University of Zululand they dropped from 6 600 to 5 300; at the University of the North West they fell from 11 203 to 6 011, and at the University of Durban-Westville they fell from 8 859 to about 7 000.

Three years ago Turfloop had 16 000 students and had to turn applicants away, but now, according to acting-vice-chancellor Professor S P Mashike, the university "is in bad shape".

The University of the Witwatersrand, which opens today, was unable to disclose enrolment figures, but spokesperson Wendy McAllister said enrolments for undergraduate degrees, particularly in education, had decreased considerably. "This is a national trend," she said.

Rhodes University, with 5 309 students last year, currently has 4 481 students, with registration still taking place. Vice-chancellor Dr David Woods predicted a tough year.

"The subsidy must be seen in relation to the rapid depreciation of the rand, which affects universities more than other business as educational material like books, chemicals and laboratory equipment are all dollar linked," he said.

Fort Hare's Professor Mbulelo Mzamane said the most pressing issue facing the historically disadvantaged universities seemed to be their future survival and development.

"HDUs are further disadvantaged by drawing the vast majority of students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Penalties are imposed, instead of more resources (given) for the upliftment of underprepared students admitted to HDUs," he said.

Mzamane said he supported the creation of an HDU fund.

While the fund may be a long-term goal, the problems would not vanish without adequate government support, Zululand vice-chancellor Professor Charles Dlamini said.

Technikons and private colleges appeared to be winning the battle for students, with Vaal Triangle Technikon boasting 15 000 at its Vereeniging campus, up from 11 000 last year.

Dr Marcus Balintulo, vice-chancellor at Cape Technikon, where enrolment stands at 9 550, said that if the decline in student numbers at universities was a national trend, then it was not surprising, taking into consideration factors such as the fact that there were more universities than technikons in the country, while the need in the job market was clearly for graduates offering technologically based qualifications.

Balintulo said economic uncertainty in the country also affected student numbers, and that private providers of higher education were also negatively affected.

Peninsula Technikon head Brian Figaji said it was a worldwide trend for students to move towards relevant and technologically oriented programmes.

Bheki Khumalo, spokesperson for Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, said instability on campuses at various HDUs was one of the reasons why students were going elsewhere to further their studies.

# New Unisa principal maps out his plans

(54)

Star 22/2/99

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT

Unisa's new principal, Professor Antony Melck, last week pledged to turn the university into a friendly environment for people of all races and to eradicate any traces of racism by the year 2000.

Speaking during the opening of Unisa's academic year, Melck revealed his seven-point plan for Unisa's transformation which includes eradicating any remnants of racism during this year.

He said the goal of his plan was to create a transformed and financially viable institution upholding excellence, adding that 1999 was symbolic of where they stood.

Students, Unisa's staff and other people who filled the Old Mutual hall to capacity, welcomed the newly appointed vice chancellor and principal with a standing ovation and listened attentively while he delivered his first state of university address.

"We are not only at the close of the 20th century and the millennium, but also at the end of a chapter in the history of this university. The future is here on our doorstep, smiling and welcoming us, and what she promises is exciting," he said.

Revealing his seven-point plan, Melck said as an institution Unisa had not escaped the impact of the socio-political changes.

"In a bid to reposition the institution in order to sustain its role in distance education and to deal with external changes and internal pressures, a project titled Project 2000 was initiated last year," he said.

According to Melck the project led to the identification of seven key points which were later endorsed by the project steering committee.

The seven points, which would also

help Unisa to address its clients' needs, include:

- The development of an effective learning environment by means of quality learning materials and effective tuition through appropriate delivery strategies.

- Selected programmes and schools to form the basis for managing the academic processes at Unisa and addressing national needs.

- Employment Equity to be attained through an aggressive programme of recruitment, training and development of previously disadvantaged individuals, to establish a demographically representative institution.

- Achieving institutional growth through effective cost management in order to ensure financial viability and sustainability.

- Enhancing the stature of Unisa as a university by encouraging excellence in teaching, scholarship and innovative research for the benefit of society.

- Underpinning the process of transformation on the one hand by effective communication to ensure stakeholder participation and on the other by marketing strategies.

- Allocation of resources to academic programmes and administrative functions will be linked to the strategic objectives outlined in the above points.

Melck said the implementation of the seven-point plan would be done in phases spread over a period of three years, adding that when Unisa starts its search for a new principal after his two-year contract expires, it would have a strong and stable base.

"In the first six month phase after the adoption of the principles of the seven-point plan, a great deal of effort will have to be devoted by academic departments and faculties to the selection of programmes and establishment of schools," he said.

# Audits for poor universities

BD 22/299 (54)  
Primarashni Pillay

EXTERNAL forensic auditors will start auditing the books of cash-strapped, historically disadvantaged universities in April.

Yesterday's announcement of the audit by the education ministry comes after its recent disclosure that institutions with large overdrafts will be audited. Ministry spokesman Bheki Khumalo said the process was taking time to get off the ground as there were technical issues to resolve.

Universities and technikons are owed about R730m in outstanding student fees. The bulk of the debt is carried by a few institutions, notably the Medical University of SA and the universities of Fort Hare, Zululand, Transkei, North West, and the North. The survival of these universities is under threat.

Khumalo said: "The auditors will look at their cash flow problems and their financial systems."

He dismissed the possibility of government writing off the debt, as demanded by the SA Students' Congress (Sasco), which argues that it was incurred under apartheid. Deputy secretary-general Jones Zondo said: "Big corporations should contribute to the writing off of the

debt as this money is nothing for them."

To tackle the debt problem, universities are asking students to pay outstanding fees at the start of the new academic year, as well as a registration fee. Students can then stagger payment for their current courses over the academic year.

Sasco argues that students do not have the significant sums needed to pay outstanding fees or registration fees. Consequently, they were being excluded from institutions. Zondo said Sasco was against university managements excluding students who had not settled outstanding fees. "We will ensure that the pay-as-you-go system of fee payment system is not implemented."

"The alternative is for universities to register students with outstanding fees while we and the SA University Vice-Chancellors' Association address the problem," said Zondo.

Khumalo said yesterday that R385m of the R730m debt was incurred last year. "The debt cannot be attributed solely to apartheid. If you write off the debt, who is going to pay for it? The money is not owed to government but to universities."

Sasco is to meet the vice-chancellors' association this week.

## STUDENT ENROLLMENTS PLUMMET

# Campuses fear calamity

(h4) of 22/2/99

**HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED** universities, hardest hit by the national fall in enrolment numbers, support the idea of a fund to help them.

**A**LARM bells are ringing at former black universities as enrolments continue to fall, unpaid fees rise and government subsidies remain insufficient to bail them out.

The heads of the former historically disadvantaged universities met in the city at the weekend to discuss their problems.

At the University of Fort Hare, student numbers have plunged from around 5 000 to 2000 this year. Those at the University of the North (Turffloop) have dropped from 9 000 to 5 000; the University of Zululand from 6 600 to 5 300; and the University of North-West from 11 203 to 6 011.

Turffloop — which three years ago had an enrolment of 16 000 and had to turn students away — is

now "in bad shape", said acting vice-chancellor S P Mashike.

At the University of Witwatersrand, enrolments for degrees, particularly in education, had fallen considerably, said spokesperson Wendy McAllister.

Rhodes University has 4 481 students, but registration is still taking place. Its vice-chancellor, David Woods, predicts a tough year. "The subsidy must be seen in relation to the depreciation of the rand, which affects universities as educational materials like books, chemicals and laboratory equipment are dollar-linked," he said.

Mbulelo Mzamane of Fort Hare told the gathering of vice-chancellors that the most pressing issue was the "survival and development" of historically disadvan-

tagged universities. These universities had been created under apartheid and given inferior facilities and less money than others.

"(They) are also disadvantaged as they draw the vast majority of their students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds," Mzamane said.

"Penalties are imposed, instead of more resources given for the upliftment of under-prepared students. The rising student debt as well as historically low levels of state and donor funding have brought these universities to the verge of collapse."

Mzamane said he supported the creation of a fund for historically disadvantaged universities.

The pressing problems would not vanish without adequate government support, said Charles Dlamini, vice-chancellor of the University of Zululand.

By contrast with universities, enrolments at technikon and pri-

vate colleges are rising.

Marcus Balintulo, vice-chancellor of Cape Technikon, which has 9 550 students, said the decline in university enrolments was not surprising. The reasons were that there were more universities than technikons, the job market needed graduates who had technological qualifications, and many students who might have enrolled at historically disadvantaged schools were attending traditionally white universities.

Peninsula Technikon is to enrol an estimated 8 700 students — up 7%. Its head, Brian Figaji, said the movement of students towards technologically oriented programmes was a worldwide trend.

Bheki Khumalo, spokesperson for Minister of Education Sibiso Bengu, said instability on campuses at historically disadvantaged universities was among the reasons for students enrolling elsewhere. —  
Own Correspondent

# 'Government has abandoned historically black universities'

ARG 24/2/99 (54)

**BEAUREGARD TROMP**  
STAFF REPORTER

**The Government has abandoned black universities although they have spent more than 30 years in the frontline fighting apartheid.**

This is the feeling of many students and academics at the University of the Western Cape, says interim SRC spokesman Michael Canham.

Last year, many hailed the news that students were starting to repay their debts at the cash-strapped University of the Western Cape.

By the end of 1998, student debt had dropped by an unprecedented 23% to R46 million.

But what has now emerged is that the bulk of the money came from loans taken by students from the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa), meaning that most students are not really able to meet their education expenses.

Last year, in a landmark agreement between the UWC administration and the SRC, it was decided students with outstanding fees could reregister for the new academic year provided they paid R2 000 at registration, as well as a percentage of their outstanding fees. Students going into residence were required to pay R2 500.

A similar agreement was adopted this year. A significant number of students felt by agreeing to this, the SRC had sold them out. They described the financial conditions as fierce.

In August, a mass meeting was held at which a so-called interim SRC was elected by a show of hands. It was mandated to replace the old SRC, which had been elected by secret ballot, and to embark on new negotiations with the administration.

The interim SRC is a loose coalition of far-left organisations like the Azanian Students Congress, Pan African Student Organisation and the Student League.

The old SRC, which refused to recognise the interim SRC, comprises almost entirely members of the ANC-aligned South African Students Congress (Sasco).

The argument as to which is the legitimate SRC has not yet been resolved.

The current situation is that the Sasco SRC is recognised as the voice of UWC students by the university administration and the courts.

Clarity will probably be achieved only when students go to the polls next month.

In the meantime, the interim SRC is mobilising students to protest against the latest financial agreement struck between the old SRC and the administration two weeks ago.

"We feel there should have been a broader consultation process before such an agreement could be signed," said interim SRC spokesman Michael Canham.

The ardent trade unionist, who has a degree in philosophy and history, believes the university is going against its own principles by concluding such an agreement.

"This university wrote down its position in 1982 when it bound itself to helping the financially marginalised. In 1987, Professor Jakes Gerwel (former rector) did the same when he declared this university to be the political home of the left. We were trying to change the way tertiary education should be constituted in this country," said Mr Canham.

The interim SRC argues that tertiary education should be more readily available to the working class instead of consisting of elitist institutions catering for the middle class and the wealthy.

Mr Canham claims the Government is trying to maintain institutions like the University of Cape Town and the University of the Witwatersrand instead of focusing on uplifting black institutions.

"There are glaring inequalities between tertiary institutions in South Africa."

In a document released by the interim SRC, it claims that in 1996 the Government cut its subsidy to UWC via the National Student Financial Aid Scheme by R29-million, and made other general aid cuts amounting to more than R6-million.

Tefsa loans and bursaries have also

been cut, meaning the majority of students will be unable to pay their fees.

Mr Canham sees this as part of a deliberate campaign by the Government to get rid of the former black universities.

"We are entering an era where black universities will turn their back on poor students for the production of a black middle class at the expense of the marginalised," Mr Canham said.

"We are not asking for free education but feel that there should be provision made for those who cannot pay their fees—who are in the majority."

The interim SRC is calling for:

■ All academically eligible students to be allowed to register, regardless of their ability to pay.

■ No increase in fees.

■ Composite food billing and a reduction in the prices of food in residences.

■ No fines on late payment of fees.

■ Upfront payments that are affordable to students from poor backgrounds.

■ The creation of a budgeting forum comprising workers, students and academics.

The group is also calling on the Government to allocate an emergency fund for UWC, end rationalisation and underwrite UWC's debt.

"In the absence of urgent Government intervention, I foresee the collapse of black tertiary education in South Africa very soon. Tertiary education is a key factor in our communities because it is those people who receive the skills who return to their own communities."

The crackdown on financial defaulters meant that in July 3 028 students had their food accounts suspended in residences, with a further 7 000 students facing academic exclusion this year.

The future of historically black universities seems bleak, says Mr Canham.

"The university (UWC) will probably end up with a small student population that is being produced for specific markets. Many of the historically black institutions will close down, with a few strategic ones kept in place where they are needed for the stability of the region."

# Uphill battle for UWC's rector

AKG 24/2/99 (514)

## Still no end in sight for money crisis

BEAUREGARD TROMP  
STAFF REPORTER

As the University of the Western Cape approaches the millennium, the university that was never expected to survive will turn 40 - and the man who plans to be at the helm at the time says he foresees further difficulties at the cash-strapped institution and at others like it.

Like many historically black universities, UWC is faced with an annual problem over money.

One observer described the institution as being run like a spaza shop where people pay bills that should have been paid yesterday.

The man in the hot seat at UWC and also the chairman of the Historically Black Universities Forum is Cecil Abrahams.

The rector looks calm and collected sitting back in his office chair. This is hardly the look you expect of a man who has frequently been besieged in his office by angry students demanding his resignation - for what has been seen by many as an autocratic attempt at financial reform at the university.

With UWC being the highly politically-conscious university that it is, Professor Abrahams has been targeted for his lack of frontline history in the struggle against apartheid. Faced with a debt which is part of a legacy of accepting poor black students, it seems the professor has an uphill battle. But he is optimistic.

"I want UWC to be a place of quality where young people can grow to achieve their own dreams and develop our country," said Professor Abrahams.

"UWC is by far the most advanced historically black university and always finishes within the first six in the country. It is also the only black university, created



ANDREW INGRAM

Between a rock and a hard place: UWC rector Cecil Abrahams. 'Our mission is to help the disadvantaged of South Africa, but the funding received by the state is not adequate,' he says

under apartheid, to make the top 10."

The rector feels proud that 96% of the student population comes from African and coloured communities, but adds that it is impossible to move away from the fact that the majority of students come from relatively poor backgrounds.

A landmark deal signed with the SRC last year meant student debt was limited to about R46-million by the end of the year.

But Professor Abrahams estimates about 60% of the money paid as fees came from loans.

This year a similar deal has been struck with the SRC, which has come under fire

from academics and students at the institution.

"We are not trying to exclude students. Our mission is to help the disadvantaged of South Africa but the funding received by the state is not adequate," said the rector.

He says he accepts that many students will have difficulty in paying their fees, but said a payment plan would be worked out for each student. He feels the Government should intervene at all historically black universities and as chairman of the Historically Black Universities Forum he has held numerous discussions with Education Minister Shibusiso Bengu on this topic.

The minister is familiar with the plight of the beleaguered institutions, having been the first chairman of the forum when it was launched in 1994 to argue for the 10 black universities which make up roughly 50% of the universities in South Africa.

Although the Government is sympathetic, no funds have been forthcoming. A total of R27-million recently allocated by the Government as a form of a redress fund has been described as "laughable" by critics - who see it as insignificant when split between the 10 institutions.

"We are telling the Government they are more likely to develop human

resources at these (black) institutions than at advantaged institutions," said Professor Abrahams. He also called for the formation of a redress fund to address shortages like laboratories, libraries and general staff.

Professor Abrahams argues that black universities attract the poorest students and that the Government should therefore "scratch deeper into its kitty" to adjust the imbalances.

"The Government must purposely favour black universities.

"If you get a BA at the University of Venda it should be equal to a BA from UCT - which is not the case at the moment."

# Man with a mission to grow UCT's 'own timber'

Wilmot James has 'come home' to the University of Cape Town, intent on broadening the reach of academic inquiry. Special Writer **MICHAEL MORRIS** asked the newly-appointed Dean of Humanities at South Africa's oldest university what he has in mind



(54)

A framed 1994 ballot paper – that crammed cipher of an improbable 18 party symbols and leaders' portraits – is the dominant ornament so far on the walls of Professor Wilmot James's Beattie Building office. It's actually less ornament than icon, a symbol of the range of countervailing opinion and the hard-won right to express it as a quotient of power.

This was, after all, the piece of paper that launched the national alteration, the effects of which continue in their transforming way through every facet of South Africa.

It marks both a break with the hundreds of years of events and decisions which have shaped the country and its institutions, and the point beyond which old ways of doing things are appraised with increasing impatience, rightly or wrongly. In this setting, it's possibly also the clearest clue to the vision of the man who sits beneath it, and the style and substance of the leadership he intends to provide.

Students – and staff – would do well to reflect on the professor's political icon: it's plain that matching the socio-political challenges of South Africa and Africa inspire Wilmot James the academic as much as it did Wilmot James the activist.

His public profile as an outspoken, independent commentator in the non-government organisation sector tends to obscure the fact that – apart from his relatively brief foray into the "outside" world as executive director of the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa) – he is more an academic than anything else.

Wilmot James was born and brought up in Paarl. In 1961, when he was eight, the family moved to Athlone. After matriculating at Athlone High School, he enrolled at the University of the Western Cape, emerging in 1976 with a BA Hons. The next five years were spent in the US, where he completed an MA and a PhD at the University of Wisconsin.

In 1982, aged 29, he returned to South Africa to teach politics at UWC. Two years later he was back in the US, this time as a post-doctoral fellow on an interdisciplinary southern African research programme at

Yale University, run by Leonard Thompson. He was home again in 1986, and took up a lecturing post at UCT. Working his way through the ranks, he became professor of sociology in 1993.

He joined Idasa a year later, replacing executive director Alex Boraine. He left Idasa at the end of last year.

He seems surprised to find there are no benches in the courtyard, once we've descended by the stairs to find a quiet place to talk – and we squat on the edge of the concrete path instead.

He is pleased, he says, to find himself once more at an institution whose needs he believes he understands.

With more than 200 staff and some 4 000 students, UCT's new faculty of humanities is about the size of Rhodes University. It encompasses the departments of music, dance, drama, education, English, extra-mural studies, history, history of art, the school of librarianship, the Michaelis school of fine art, modern and classical languages, philosophy, political studies, psychology, social anthropology, social work, sociology, South African languages and linguistics – and two institutes, the Centre for African Studies and the African Gender Institute.

The creation of this "mega-faculty", as he calls it, is coupled with a change in the "style and power" of deans, who now hold "much stronger offices".

The question, though, is, "what do we do with this?"

He sets down essentials: nurturing quality staff – and attracting new, bright academics – tops the list.

Inevitably, there's also the question of race. It's striking that "at a time when the student body is no longer dominated by whites, the academic staff is still largely white". It's not easy to change "because it takes a while to be able to draw on talented black academics". He acknowledges that UCT "has some very good projects in place 'to grow our own timber', but it will take a long time".

And then, money. It's vital to nurturing

excellence, and change.

"One has to do more with less money and, while the funding is not less for this year necessarily, if you look down the road, there may well be less Government support (which is unpredictable). The need to find other sources of income, and extract more value out of people, becomes more pressing."

(He intends using his NGO-sector experience in exploiting "major opportunities for endowment income and philanthropy".) But it's in the teaching and the inquiry that he hopes his transformatory vision for humanities will illuminate new ways to go.

"The implicit challenge is: what do the humanities mean in the new South Africa?"

"I have been quite amazed, for instance, at how little connection there is between social studies here and the 'real world'," he adds, sweeping his hand across Beattie's all-but-deserted garden. It's not this ivy and granite precinct he implies, but the hazy panorama of the Peninsula and beyond, sprawling below, out of sight; the somewhat listless, changeable counterpoint to the chunky permanence of the campus.

"In politics, people tend to do work which is either theoretical, or at a great distance from what happens out there. What work is being done on local – city – politics, for instance? There is very little written on it.

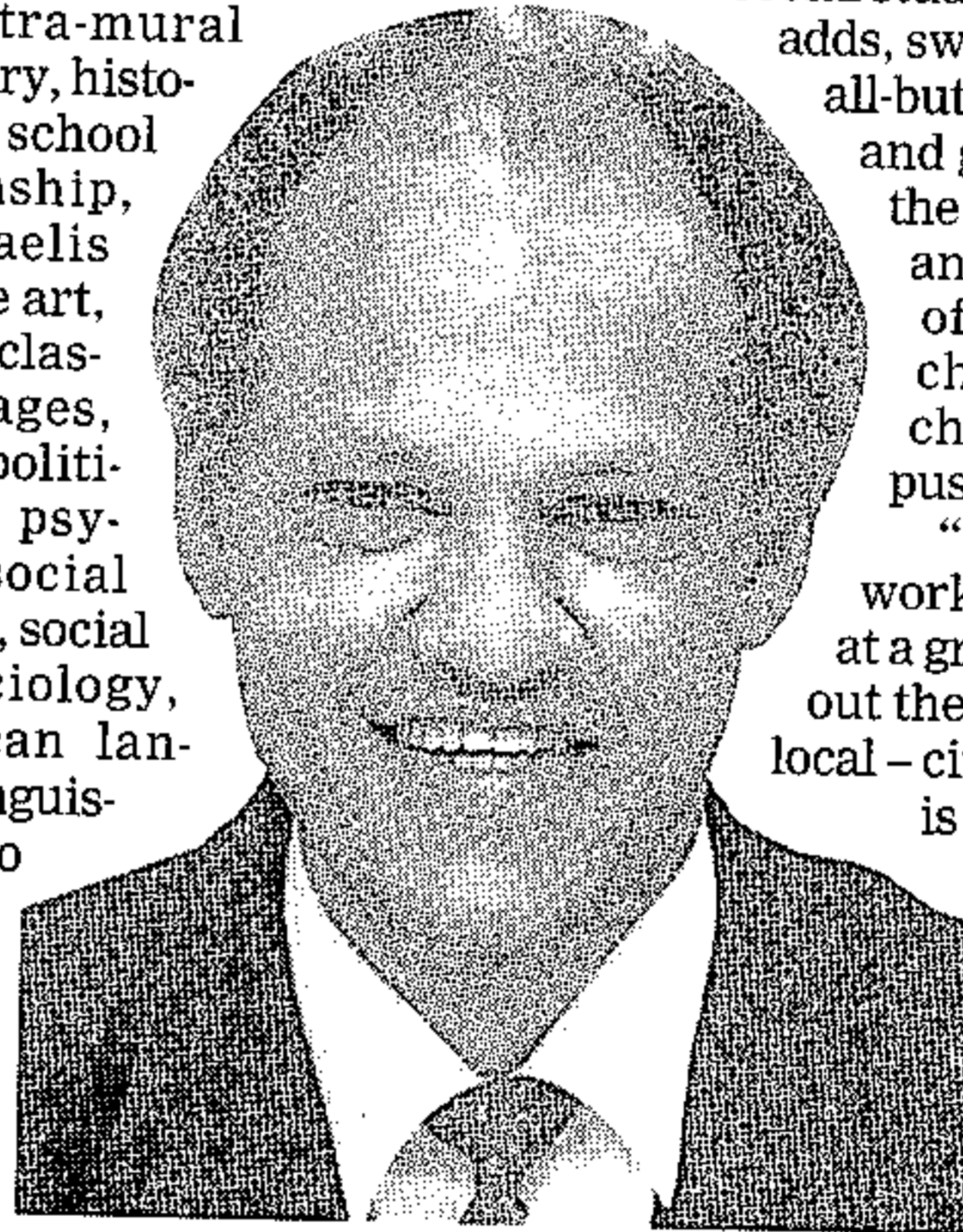
"In sociology, one thinks about the social problems in Cape Town thrown up by the dynamics of transformation. There is some work, but it's not drawing on the richness that the country offers. Or even the continent."

Overall, his conviction is that "universities have to get back to the point where they are a source of new ideas – genuinely new ideas".

He is somewhat impatient with "a narrow, technical reading of (South Africa's bread and butter) requirements, necessary as they may be".

All current imperatives – globalisation, "renaissance", reconstruction, growth – depend as much on "analysis, criticism, creativity and an understanding of human society".

Almost as if he has asked himself why this is so, Professor James pauses, and for a moment it seems there is no obvious answer. Then he settles on it: a hopeful life is inconceivable without the humanities. They are, after all, "the source of one's optimism".



ARG 24/2/99



# Plan to solve student debt

(54) CT 24/2/99

**MXOLISI MGXASHE**

*looks at the future  
of historically disadvantaged  
universities*

**A** MARSHALL PLAN-type educational strategy with adequate reparations for historically disadvantaged universities (HDUs) is the only formula that can help resolve the chronic financial crisis faced by these institutions which has resulted in an astronomical figure of more than a billion rand in unpaid students fees, says University of Fort Hare vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzamane.

Mzamane says that it has become evident that government resources for reconstructing and developing post-apartheid society are not on the scale anticipated before and it is now time the tertiary-education financial-aid imbalances created by apartheid were redressed by giving much more to those who were discriminated against and marginalised than to those who had enjoyed the monopoly of funding in the past.

"Historically black universities have found themselves in a debt trap that's almost reminiscent of any Third World debt trap. Part of the main question to be addressed is whether we need something more fundamental by way of a funding formula for universities, which will result in a genuine reintegration of those who were once marginalised culturally, educationally and economically into the mainstream of productive society.

"You cannot do that by simply continuing with a formula that was meant to discriminate against others. You need to overhaul almost the entire system so that it favours those who would otherwise not be the beneficiaries. There is no other way," he noted.

In an interview with the *Cape Times* at the weekend, Mzamane said the fact that large amounts of unpaid school fees concentrated on the HDUs "begins to talk to the situation of the 'two worlds' South Africa had become because of the racial divisions of the past".

Under a Marshall Plan-type reconstruction formula he is proposing universities and technikons, in particular, would get top-most budgetary allocations in line with the practice of a number of countries in Africa, particularly Nigeria and Botswana, where the creation of human resources among people who had been neglected in the past was a top priority.

Top of the list of indebted HDUs are the universities of the North, Zululand and Western Cape who are owed staggering sums of R120-million, R61,5-million, and R45-million respectively.

University of Venda is near the bottom of the list with R16-million, followed by University of Transkei (R15-million), Durban-Westville (R13-million), Fort Hare (R10-million) and North West (R9-million).

The picture somewhat changes when it comes to historically advantaged universities where the list is topped by UCT with R23-million, followed by Wits, Pretoria, Free State and Natal owed R18-million, R18-million, R9-million and R6-million respectively. At the bottom of the list is Rhodes University owed only R1.4-million, followed by Rand Afrikaans University (R2-million), Stellenbosch (R3,5-million), Port Elizabeth (R3,8-million) and Potchefstroom (R6-million).

Addressing what Mzamane calls the "HDUs' debt trap" recently, minister of education Sibusiso Bengu said his department was "extremely concerned" about the financial status of some of the tertiary institutions and a joint committee of the departments of education and

finance was being established to undertake a detailed financial review of the higher education sector, which some observers believe could lose no less than five tertiary institutions if the crisis was not resolved.

But Mzamane stresses the urgency and holistic manner in which the problem must be attended to, especially in the face of increasing needs caused by the increase in the number of university and technikon-going students who are yearning passionately to make a big difference in the quality of their lives.

He said the financial situation of the HDUs had been further complicated by the fact that their students came from the most destitute communities in the country and the condition for funding by government based on passing rates.

"That looks very fair on the surface until you begin to realise that students from places such as Fort Hare and so on come from the most abjectly destitute groups, most of whom have to struggle each day to make ends meet. The 'better pass rates, the better your money' funding condition penalises universities that in fact are reaching out to students who have been marginalised.

"There seems to be no alternative, in my view, other than a serious effort by the government to overhaul its budgetary priorities to meet the country's human resources, which also means spending more on those who had not for decades benefited from the universal right of everyone to education.

"We definitely need a different paradigm to begin making a vigorous intervention in ensuring that those who were marginalised educationally, culturally and economically are also uplifted and need to be repatriated," Mzamane says.

However, he agrees that the problem had also been confused and worsened by students who used the money given to them by their parents to purchase expen-

# trap

sive clothes, jewellery and cellular phones.

Fort Hare has resolved this by involving the parents in finding a solution. Instead of billing the students, Fort Hare bills their parents.

"We now involve the parents because we realised that all along the students who had been signing these agreements were in fact minors. Our students have themselves come up with a plan how they could pay their debt in instalments, suggesting also that those who fail should not be allowed to remain on campus," the Fort Hare vice-chancellor said.

"Featuring prominently in his suggested plan on educational reforms is another suggestion that the academic year for all tertiary institutions should go back to the old system and start after the minister of finance had delivered his budget speech. This would ease the process of registration and distribution of financial aid.

The present academic year, Mzamane says, has created some problems for Fort Hare, in particular where payment of salaries and wages could not be handed out on time on two occasions because there just was no money. The staff got so agitated and anxious that they accused the administration of corruption and "squander mania".

The crisis was deflated with the help of the banks, which extended overdrafts in anticipation that minister of finance Trevor Manuel would deliver. Part of the debt to the banks came from the astronomical interests charged by the banks.

Mzamane was among the heads of HDUs who met at Stellenbosch at the weekend to discuss this crisis and how institutions could participate in efforts to resolve the crisis that could lead to the closure of as many as five universities if a solution was not found.

The idea of establishing a fund to help especially the HDUs was popular with those attending.

# Students clash with police on Durban campus

**OWN CORRESPONDENT**

Durban - Students wreaked havoc at the University of Durban-Westville yesterday, causing a 100-strong force of policemen and campus security staff to retaliate against stone-throwing by firing teargas and rubber bullets.

Students and policemen were injured in the fracas, and windows and doors were smashed when the students were told they would be arrested if they failed to produce registration cards.

According to a police spokes-

person, Captain Trevor Reddy, a member of the students' representative council was arrested after the head of the university protection services was assaulted.

The scenes were reminiscent of student confrontations in the 1980s against policemen and university authorities.

This time, however, the unrest was over the university sticking to its decision to bar 106 "recurrent failures" from registering. Sympathisers swelled the number of students taking part in the demonstrations to about 500.

Vice-chancellor and principal

Mapule Ramashala said the decision to bar the 106 students from registering would not change.

"We have to uphold the academic integrity of the university and therefore will not admit the recurrent failures.

"For every student who fails over and over again we are denying a space to another disadvantaged student who is yearning to get a degree and the chance of a better life."

Ramashala said a number of parents had called supporting her stance against unruly student behaviour on the campus.

(54)

Star 25/2/99

6

---

# Inquiry launched at technikon

(54)

*Sowetan 26/2/99*

**By Victor Mecoamere**  
Education Correspondent

**T**HE troubled Technikon Northern Gauteng in Garankuwa has mounted positional changes, instituted a judicial commission of inquiry and requested Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu's intervention after a class boycott by its 5 000 students.

Mr Martin Kgoale, the technikon's vice chairman and the institution's media officer Mr Godfrey Mdhluli, said in a statement yesterday that the executive committee of the institution's council had made the decision on Tuesday after deliberating on the students' demands.

The students demanded the resignation of vice chancellor and principal Professor George Lenyai, whom they accused of inefficiency,

and the suspension of four lecturers for having allegedly misused R600 000.

The affected lecturers are registration director Mr H Shubane, maintenance deputy director Mr M Ngoma, transport head Mr W Mapetla and protection services head Mrs RG Sebothoma.

### Urgent meeting

At an urgent meeting last Saturday, the Technikon's student representative committee president Mr I Mnisi asked that the name of vice principal Mr MA Mashego be added to the list of lecturers for whose suspension the students were calling.

Kgoale and Mdhluli said the council had decided that Lenyai, Mashego, Ngoma, Mapetla, Shubane and Sebothoma be asked to "stay at home while the efforts to get the com-

mission put in place were explored".

Professor LR van Staden has replaced Lenyai as acting vice chancellor and principal, information technology director Mr E Ledwaba has been appointed acting vice principal in the place of Mashego, while Shubane, Mapetla, Ngoma and Sebothoma's positions are being "temporarily occupied by their immediate subordinates".

Tuesday's meeting was preceded by yet another urgent meeting attended by representatives of the students representative council, technikon council, National Health and Allied Workers Union, National Union of Technikon Employees of South Africa and the institution's Broad Transformation Forum.

At this meeting the terms of reference for a judicial commission of inquiry were agreed upon.

# Four student representatives suspended after disruptions

BD 26/2/99

(54)

**Primarashni Pillay  
and Sapa**

FOUR members of the student representative council of the University of Durban-Westville were suspended yesterday by university management on the grounds of misconduct.

This follows their alleged participation in disruptions on the campus this week when close to 300 students protested against the exclusion of 106 students who had repeatedly failed their academic programmes.

Another four people who are no longer registered students were also instructed to leave the campus.

"The degeneration of protest into acts of violence and criminality will not be tolerated. We are in the process of collecting reports of violent behaviour and will institute disciplinary and criminal proceedings against those responsible in order to bring them into book," the management said in a statement.

It said the university would continue to use police and other available measures to ensure that 7 200 registered students were able to attend lectures without intimidation.

Earlier this week, protesting students disrupted lectures and caused damage to campus property. The protest action continued yesterday "and the situation was still tense", university spokesman Kiru Naidoo said. The university's senate met earlier in the day and supported management's firm stance.

"Senate resolved that manage-

ment should continue the academic programme and that they should not be held to ransom by a small group of unruly students," Naidoo said.

Referring to the failed students who had been excluded, Naidoo said in almost every case, the students had remained at the university well beyond the maximum period permitted by department and faculty rules.

University vice-chancellor Mapule Ramashala condemned the violent protest action, and said students who failed repeatedly took up space that "could have gone to another disadvantaged, probably African, student yearning for a university education and opportunities to make a better life".

She said that the costs incurred in the process of restoring normality to the campus as well as settling the medical bills of students injured as a result of the violent behaviour of others, would be deducted from the student council's budget.

The council members who were suspended would be denied access to the university until the end of the first semester. They had the right of appeal against the decision.

The student council has condemned police and the university's security guards for using force on students. It said about 25 students had registered complaints of assault by the police.

The council also disputed reports that there were only 106 unregistered students, saying the amount was closer to 400.

"All we are asking from the management is to unconditionally withdraw suspension of all (council) members, reopen negotiations, allow unregistered students to register and remove police from campus," the council said.

It also appealed to government to intervene immediately.

The council threatened that if its demands were not met it would mobilise students and parents to boycott the coming elections.

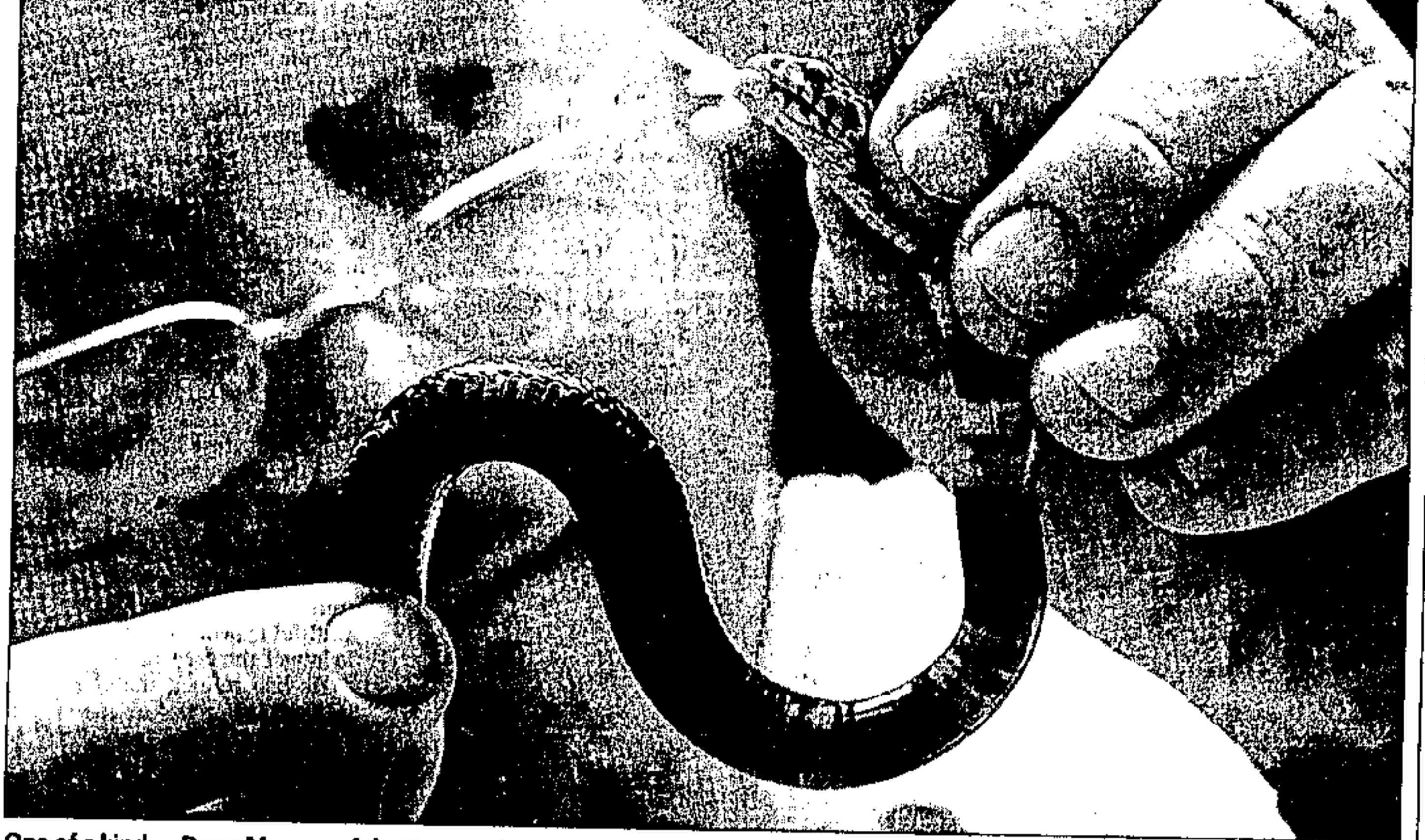
Meanwhile, North West education MEC Zacharia Tolo is to appoint auditors to investigate the financial situation at the Lehurutshe College of Education after students demanded the resignation of the campus accountant, IR Modisane.

Students had problems with the accounting system which had apparently led to many of them not being registered.

Students protested in support of their demands this week, after which two unused petrol bombs were apparently found on the campus.

Tolo, who visited the college on Wednesday, said he would appoint an auditing firm to investigate its financial situation, and another one to investigate student allegations.

In his interaction with representatives of Vryburg High School, which was at the centre of racial tension last year and is again in the spotlight after a black pupil allegedly stabbed a white pupil, Tolo said the school should begin the disciplinary hearing against the suspect.



One of a kind ... Doug Morgan of the Transvaal Snake Park shows off one of nine one-week-old forest cobras. The snake park is the first in the world to hatch captive-bred forest cobras to the third generation.

# Making tertiary education <sup>(54)</sup> more appropriate for working

Star 2/3/99

Most of the major institutions in SA are restructuring their curricula

By EDWIN NAIDU

**T**ertiary institutions are slowly overhauling the apartheid curricula and replacing them with programmes aimed at ensuring students are able to make their mark in the South African economy.

Several universities and technikons have embarked on major restructuring of teaching programmes so that graduates can become equipped with skills which could benefit the economy.

While some academics are of the view that academics in South Africa remain rooted to the methods of the past, historically disadvantaged institutions are among those taking the lead in implementing changes necessary for survival.

University of Venda vice-chancellor Professor Gessler Nkondo says Afrikaans and theology as major subjects have been scaled down as service courses for students who want to take them for research purposes only.

Nkondo says Univen, whose chancellor is media boss Cyril Ramaphosa, wants to become "the African university of the future" by producing students with technological skills. Instead of learning about the Bible or turning the other cheek, students at Venda will be taught how to get onto the information super-highway using the latest in technology.

The change of direction has its own price though. "While we have to refocus, new programmes are costly. That is why we are scaling down subjects which once were part of our traditional focus," says Nkondo.

On the other end of the spectrum, the privileged University of Natal has adopted three major programmes which seek to change the way it has done things in the past.

Deputy vice-chancellor

Professor Ahmed Bawa says the university's key challenges include establishing core curriculum models in humanities so students can play a greater role in society, introducing language text and communication studies and creating programmes to make tertiary education available for students who do not qualify for admission.

"The on-going challenge is to make the curricula relevant to the country," he said.

Bawa added that UND had attempted to make learning more interactive, a break from the rote learning which students were used to during their formative years. He cited the example of a psychology class which used to be held previously in a large lecture hall which seated 1 000 students.

The course is now material based and tutorials are held in small groups.

Frikkie Kotze, spokesperson for Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, said restructuring of academic departments in various schools with focus areas broadly in accordance with NQF fields has been completed and is in the implementation phase.

"The ultimate goal of this university with restructuring is to focus our expertise and research efforts on the short, medium and long term needs of our country. Specific programmes have been introduced to address such needs."

Wendy McAllister, spokesperson for the University of Witwatersrand, said curriculum change is, or should be, an ongoing process, in response to a range of needs. The faculty of arts, for example, has introduced modular courses. This is not only an international trend, particularly in the liberal arts, but also meets the needs of stu-

dents. Other curricula, especially those for the professional degrees, must meet the needs of relevant accrediting bodies nationally and internationally. Where ever possible, she says, Wits' curricula took into account local needs. The town and regional planning curriculum, for example, looks at spatial planning in informal settlements and dentistry includes community dentistry.

McAllister says that teaching methods remain the same, but with ongoing and increasing use of computers and the Internet. For example, medical students have access to self-learning CD-Roms for anatomical studies.

Gops Chetty, spokesperson for Natal Technikon, says the institution is guided in its curriculum transformation activities by the Council on Higher Education and the

Committee of Technikon Principles (CTP).

Representatives of the CTP meet regularly with the South African Qualifications Authority personnel and representatives of the Committee of University Vice-Chancellors and others to co-ordinate the process of transformation in higher education.

He says two staff members have been seconded into the Academic Quality Unit to facilitate the smooth transformation of curriculum and teaching and learning methods.

In terms of curriculum transformation, structures have been put into place which allow contributions from all stakeholders. Chetty says academic and support staff are being encouraged to attend teaching and learning development courses designed to promote a wider range of teaching, learning and assessment methods based on a philosophy of active

learning and outcome-based education.

Mohamed Shaikh, spokesperson for Technikon Pretoria, says his institution's curricula were structured to meet the needs of commerce and industry. Courses are structured after input and discussions with captains of industry.

In a bid to become more accessible, Shaikh said, the technikon has implemented an open learning system using the Internet, video technology and CD-Roms. "This system has paved the way to a culture of lifelong learning and enabling students to update their skills continuously as demanded by the ever changing world of work," he said.

The University of Stellenbosch has also made changes to its programmes, making them more accessible and relevant than in the past.

Vice-rector (Academic) Walter Claassen says the whole set of teaching programmes where not already done and will be re-considered in terms of the requirements in the White Paper on Higher Education Transformation.

He says there is a greater realisation of the diversity of students, in terms of the study backgrounds, and provision is being made as far as possible for this diversity.

Department of Education chief director Dr Molapo Qhobela says tertiary institutions are autonomous and responsible for their own curricula, especially content.

Government has also focused on macro economic issues, with emphasis on the location and registration of higher programmes in the National Qualifications Framework.

"It is not our intention as a department to work on models of curricula, but to concentrate on focusing on facilitating research and discussion on curriculum change," he said.

**Making them more relevant and accessible**

## NEW UCT HIGH-TECH CENTRE

# Making the body heal itself

**RESEARCH** into ways to "trick" the human body into re-growing diseased parts has received a R30m boost from the private sector. Health Writer **JUDITH SOAL** reports.

**U**CT medical school's latest research unit — the Cape Heart Centre — positively gleams. Everything is brand-new. The three-storey building boasts spacious, modern laboratories with the latest medical equipment and technology.

It's not bad for a country with a cash-strapped public health system. The centre's researchers say it is the perfect example of the much-vaunted "public-private mix" in health care.

Yesterday the Medtronic Institute, one of five groups making up the centre, was officially opened. It is funded by a R30m investment from medical technology company Medtronic Incorporated.

"It can be depressing when you cross the road to Groote Schuur where the patients are and see how they struggle for basic equipment," said institute director Peter Zilla. "But we believe what we have done

can provide a model for others to follow."

"Medtronic the company" will produce and sell the fruits of "Medtronic the institute" research efforts.

"We are in the business of tissue engineering," Zilla explained. "Basically my focus is on three areas: Getting the body to grow artificial arteries, artificial valves and artificial hearts. To do this it has to be "tricked" into growing new cells of a particular kind."

"For example, if I cut myself now I will form a lousy scar, with lots of scar tissue. If it happened in the embryo I would have healed with no scar," Zilla said.

"The challenge of this work is to find the signals that will persuade the body to do what it did in the embryo."

Zilla is in his 15th year of working on artificial arteries. While in Vienna in the 1980s he developed

a technique that has been used successfully on Austrian patients.

"The shortcoming of that technique is that it required a high-tech laboratory for the implant. The current phase will, hopefully, develop a product that can be implanted even in a small hospital," he said.

It will be a while yet before Medtronic the company can hope for a return on its investment. "With artificial arteries we hope to have a product ready in five to seven years. For artificial valves and hearts it will be longer, up to 10 years," Zilla said.

Every year in South Africa, 3 000 people have their heart valves surgically replaced. The ideal replacement valve is made of titanium and can outlive the patient, but these valves are successful only if recipients take anti-coagulation drugs for the rest of their lives.

"Anti-coagulation can be life-threatening when not properly controlled, and in South Africa many patients come from rural areas where follow-up can't be guaranteed," Zilla said.

Because of this, pig valves — which are less likely to develop clots — are implanted in these patients. But pig valves degenerate within about seven years.

If the body can be stimulated to re-grow its diseased heart valve or diseased artery, it would be a breakthrough, said Zilla. When it doesn't intend conning the body into growing a new organ.

"There are already many successful plastic hearts, but again these require anti-coagulants."

"If we could persuade the body to grow tissue that would cover the inner surface of the plastic it wouldn't be necessary and we would solve the problem of a shortage of donor organs."

Zilla is convinced the partnership with Medtronic will benefit both private and public patients.

"We must be careful that the state does not see these collaborations as a ticket to withdraw, but rather as a wonderful opportunity to step up its efforts on pure research. If it does not it will be the death sentence for academia."

(57) CT 2/3/99

# R18-m quest puts UCT at heart of health revolution

DI CAELERS  
HEALTH WRITER

(574)

ARL 2/3/99

Research aimed at persuading the human body to regrow damaged heart valves may sound somewhat futuristic, but the R30-million to make the research project fly is very real.

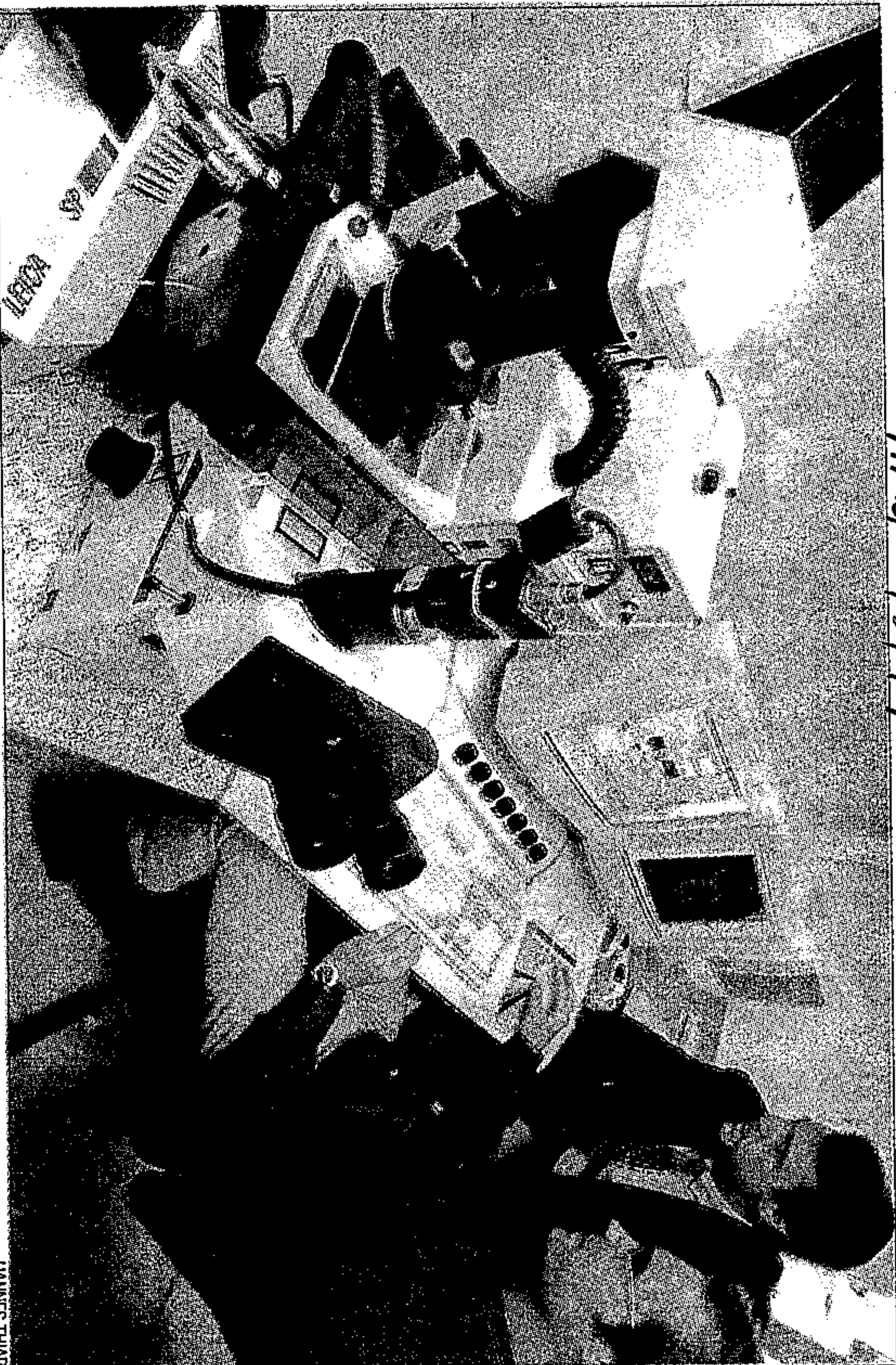
Last night, the Medtronic Institute, part of the University of Cape Town's Cape Heart Centre, celebrated its official opening, complete with about R18-million for the research project and the rest of the funding for the highest of hi-tech equipment.

The research, which could result in a finished product that coaxes the body to regrow damaged heart valves over five years, promises to change the face of treatment of heart disease patients, particularly those who live in remote rural areas.

Specialists say South Africa is sitting on a heart disease "timebomb" – already it is the leading cause of death in the country and is likely to remain so, ahead of AIDS.

The R30-million investment in South Africa's future health came from leading United States medical technology company Medtronic Incorporated, which sponsored Medtronic Institute director Peter Zilla in Austria before he moved to UCT six years ago. Professor Zilla also heads the university's cardiovascular research unit.

The other important factor in the



HANNES THART

**Look into the future:** operating the laser microscope are Medtronic Institute director Peter Zilla, left, and Dr Christoph Merzkirch

donation was South Africa's weak exchange rate, which gave the company a lot more for its money than anywhere else suitable, said Professor Zilla.

In the past eight years, about

R4,5-million of Medtronic's money has been spent on the first phase of the project, in the field of tissue engineering, to create artificial arteries.

Clinical trials in the first phase are under way, using leg arteries.

Now Professor Zilla and his team will "work to identify signals the cells send out to each other and to their environment, and so make them 'remember' what they knew in the embryo", he explained.

Once the research was complete, the home-grown implants would save the state millions of rands spent on young heart sufferers, whose substitute pig valves had to be replaced every four to seven years at a cost of more than R50 000 an operation.

Professor Zilla said that in First World countries it was mainly the elderly who suffered from heart disease and they were given new titanium valves. These could not be used in Third World conditions because the recipients had to take anti-coagulation medicine for life.

"In the developing world, including South Africa, we are seeing young people as young as 15 – but mostly around 25 – developing heart disease as a result of rheumatic fever, a consequence of poor socioeconomic conditions.

"They get pig valves because, without access to modern facilities, we could never guarantee the medication essential with the titanium valves. The pig valves deteriorate fast and often a patient of 25 will need three re-ops before they're 36, all at a cost to the state of R50 000 a time," said Professor Zilla.

At last night's official opening, UCT vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphele said the research was expected to revolutionise the management of heart patients around the world, particularly those in remote rural areas, where access to specialist medical care was difficult.

# Vaal Triangle Technikon to appoint new principal

PD 2/3/99  
(54)  
Primarashni Pillay

VAAL Triangle Technikon is to advertise the position of principal following the failure of dismissed rector Aubrey Mokadi to respond to the council's ultimatum to meet it later this month over his appeal.

The council will simultaneously advertise the position of interim acting vice-chancellor and principal. It has meanwhile terminated the services of Ngoro Vera, a former deputy vice-chancellor of administration at the University of Venda who was appointed as caretaker/manager of the institution.

Former rector Mokadi was suspended in 1997 on the grounds of alleged misconduct and favouritism.

The technikon conducted a lengthy investigation into issues around him. During that time, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu appointed an independent assessor, Prof Jaap Durand, to investigate the situation. Durand recommended that the council align the technikon's statutes with the Higher Education Act. This meant that the council would have to set in motion a process which would lead to its dissolution.

Durand further recommended that an interim caretaker be appointed to admin-

ister the campus until the dispute around Mokadi's dismissal was resolved.

At the end of last year the council found Mokadi guilty of misconduct and dismissed him.

The technikon, meanwhile, appointed Vera as caretaker/manager about six weeks ago. He was to have been employed on a month-to-month basis.

Mokadi was sent a letter by the council last week which said that his appeal would be heard from March 15 to 19 and Mokadi was given until yesterday to respond. He failed to do so.

New council chairman Shirley Tsepetsi said yesterday that Bengu had requested the appointment of an external interim principal and, as a result, Vera's contract was not being renewed.

A source, however, said that the council had apparently tried to reduce Vera's powers by informing staff that he was to advise management on institutional matters that were referred to him.

"Vera conducted surveys into staff development needs and other issues. He was playing a constructive role and it seems that management opposed this as they were threatened by his presence."

Vera and Bengu's spokesman could not be reached for comment.



# Researchers in line for bursaries worth R110-m

Star 5/3/99 (54)  
PRETORIA BUREAU

Researchers at higher education and research institutions are to benefit from more than R110-million in grants and student bursaries from the Foundation for Research Development (FRD) this year.

More than 1 200 grant-holders as well as a large number of team members and students doing research in their groups will benefit.

The funding does not include the budgets for expensive research equipment at institutions, and for the Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme.

All FRD grants to researchers have a slice earmarked for student support. In addition to these "grant-holder-linked" bursaries, more than R8-million has been awarded within the FRD's Bursary and Fellowship scheme.

An amount of R9-million has been allocated for international science liaison, which includes funds for international agreements in the fields of science, technology and engineering.

Total amounts to be awarded as 1999 research

grants are:

■R19,8-million - Competitive Industry (primary resource beneficiation; manufacturing advancement; information and infrastructure systems). ■R3,4-million - effective SET Education (innovation and change in education; preparation and development of educators; public understanding).

■R12,6-million - Improved Quality of Life (food production and food security; rural and urban development).

■R12,4-million - Sustainable Environment (inland resources; marine and coastal resources; Africa tourism; weather and climate). ■R16,2-

million - historically Black universities. ■R10,8-million - technicians; ■R22,1-million - open research programme

The FRD will cease to exist on April 1 when the National Research Foundation comes into being.

"However, not only will all 1999 grant commitments be honoured," says Dr Khotso Mokhele, FRD president, "but the current suite of FRD research support programmes - which were introduced in 1996 - will continue to run until the end of 2000, as planned."

**More than  
1 200 will  
benefit**

# Recto<sup>(54)</sup>r in trouble

Sowetan 17/3/99

By Mokgadi Pela

**T**HE rector of Technikon Gauteng and five senior officials were suspended yesterday after allegations of financial mismanagement.

The technikon's council announced the suspensions after consultations with "all the necessary stakeholders and lawyers", according to the institute's spokesman Mr Godfrey Mdluli.

Mdluli said the rector, Professor George Lenyai, vice-rector (administration and finance) Mr Alph Mashego, director of registration Mr H Shubani, deputy director of maintenance Mr M Ngoma, head of transport Mr W Mapetla and head of protection services Mrs RG Sebothoma were sent official letters informing them of their suspension.

The suspensions are with immediate effect.

Mdluli said a letter had been sent to Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu

asking him to appoint an auditor-general to probe the matter.

In the meantime, Professor Lawrence van Staden has been appointed acting vice-chancellor, with the present director of information and technology Mr Ernest Ledwaba acting in Mashego's place.

The institution was in the news earlier this year when more than 5 000 students boycotted classes demanding the resignation of the rector and the suspension of other officials.

## Misuse of funds

The students claimed that the officials had misused R600 000.

But yesterday, Mdluli could not say how much was involved.

Meanwhile, several stakeholders at the technikon have asked the minister to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry and an independent assessor with the following terms of reference:

- financial management;

- violation of policies;

- overstepping of management authority; and

- that an assessor be empowered to subpoena witnesses.

Mdluli said a delegation from Bengu's office advised the technikon's council on March 8 to ask the minister for a forensic investigation into the institute's finances.

The stakeholders include the students' representative council, the technikon's council, the National Health and Allied Workers Union of Technikon Employees of South Africa and the institution's Broad Transformation Forum.

Asked to comment, Gauteng chairman of the South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) Mr John Maluleke said: "We are not aware of the circumstances surrounding the matter and therefore are not in a position to comment."

Attempts to get comment from Bengu's office were unsuccessful yesterday.

# Professor lays down the law

## Mob demands are not entertained on campus

By ZAKHELE SHIBA

**U**NIVERSITY principals around the country must be looking with awe and renewed respect at Unile head Professor Mapule Ramashala's no-nonsense approach. Confronted by an unruly mob demanding the registration of 106 students who had not paid their fees - some of which were barred for failing for years - Ramashala refused to do so.

And it seems her stand has paid off because everything appears to be back to normal after the two weeks of turmoil.

And not satisfied with that, Ramashala wants to make sure things stay the same for the rest of the year.

This week she was chairing an extensive inquiry into the disruptions, including screening a video tape taken by police of the vandalism and the attack on students wishing to attend

lectures. "The disciplinary codes have been invoked and we are compelled to see through those processes."

"We hope we have now turned the corner and are able to see through the year with the same optimism as we began," she said in statement.

Earlier in the week, in a rare about-turn, the university's students' representative council "acknowledged" its suspension by the vice-chancellor on the "grounds of misconduct" and that its "budget and operations will remain suspended until the university management invokes appropriate procedures".

In the media conference the students condemned their own action.

In a statement the suspended SRC president Sixtus Sibeta said: "We condemn in the strongest possible

terms the intimidation and violence perpetrated against members of the university community."

"We acknowledge that our presence on campus is facilitated by mediation."

"This is for the purpose of opening discussion on review of those students who have now secured adequate funding towards outstanding fees and registration."

"We note the university management holds its position not to register chronic failures."

The SRC blamed the "chaos, confusion and violence on campus" on "certain students".

The SRC also stands to be sued by the university for damages to property and fees for the hospitalisation of injured students.

Their cell phones have been sus-

pending by the university.

The SRC's latest approach is in stark contrast to its earlier stance. A recent pamphlet stuck on the wall in its offices ominously read: "An important message for all - 'This is the UDW in the next few days. Keep waiting for it but don't lie in wait for it, because it will surprise you!'"

Ramashala stuck to her guns: "Students who have been failing over and over again should explore other options. We are adamant about not admitting the 106 recurrent failures into the 1999 academic programme."

"There are 7 000 registered students whose rights must be upheld. I have assured parents that the learning environment will not be held to ransom by a handful who have wasted their opportunity to study at

UDW," she said.

She did the unthinkable and called in the police.

"We will not hesitate to call in the police should the situation become tense again. Our responsibility is to the parents and the serious students who are at UDW to make a success of their lives."

She said bitterly: "As an African mother, it pains me that there are still those who want to disrupt the education of those among our children who are serious about their future and want to work hard for it."

At one point it was difficult for Ramashala to take her habitual walk about the campus without escorts.

Such was the tension.

Twenty-one students and three policemen were injured in the recent violence.



NO NONSENSE... Prof Ramashala puts matters back on track

CP 7/3/99

## **Turfloop fund established for needy students**

(54)

ABOUT 3 000 disadvantaged students at the University of the North (Turfloop), Northern Province, stand to benefit from the funds raised by the Student Representative Assembly (SRA), deputy SRA president Lucky Nchabeleng announced this week.

Speaking at a media briefing in Pietersburg, Nchabeleng said the SRA has established a trust fund to help needy students.

The trust has already accumulated more than R700 000 since it was instituted in 1996.

In addition to this amount, Nchabeleng said, the SRA had raised R200 000 from caterers and other businesses operating on campus.

"We are positive that this year we will be able to help many students," said Nchabeleng.

However, the embattled Turfloop's problems seem far from being solved since the university is experiencing a sharp drop in the number of new students.

This is attributed to the as yet unresolved R85 million student debt, the nine percent fee increment, the university's ineffective recruitment drive and the fact that the process of curriculum restructuring and development was going at barely a snail's pace.

Nchabeleng said the SRA had reached an agreement with the university on registering of students who owed money to the university.

He said in terms of the agreement, students who owe the university should make submissions to the institution with their parents' commitment to pay the outstanding fees at the given time.

He said a credit company had been appointed by the university to monitor the process of paying back the loans and also to recover the outstanding fees.

Meanwhile, a university spokesman said he was hopeful that a fair number of students will register this year.

He said it was too early to draw a conclusion as the registration process was still continuing.

However, Nchabeleng said there was no doubt that there had been a drop in the number of new and returning students.

"This is a result of the historical legacy of previous black institutions. They are deliberately underfunded and we are now suffering the aftermaths.

"As result of all these factors, as students of Turfloop we feel that it is our responsibility to maintain the integrity of the university," said Nchabeleng.

# Nehawu threatens 250 000-strong strike

(54)

FRANK NXUMALO

Johannesburg — The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) gave the tertiary education sector a 14-day ultimatum on Friday to respond to a proposal for a sectoral summit as a way of arresting the retrenchments ravaging the sector.

The ultimatum was directed at, among others, the Universities of the Witwatersrand, Western Cape, Natal, Pretoria and Pretoria Technikon.

Thousands of Nehawu members in the sector are facing retrenchments.

The union had already served the National Economic Development and Labour Council with a Labour Relations Act, section 77, notice. This notice formed the basis of Friday's meeting, including another one held about two weeks ago.

Nehawu has threatened a national strike involving more than 250 000 members if lasting solutions to the issues of privatisation and outsourcing, which are seen as the main preferences to retaining jobs, are not found a matter of urgency.

CT (PR) 8/3/99

Joe Lekola, the Nehawu spokesman, said the union was not strike-happy.

If employers would agree to the proposed sectoral summit the union would propose a moratorium on retrenchments while negotiations were continuing around outsourcing and privatisation.

"We don't want to be viewed as interested in the strikes only," Lekola said. "That is the reason why we proposed the summit."

But he said employers had indicated that they were not happy about any reference to a moratorium on retrenchments.

They had also pointed out that there could be no homogeneous solution as conditions varied from one institution to another.

Lekola said the institutions had mentioned heavy government subsidy cuts as the main causes of retrenchments.

The linking of subsidies to workers' salaries and wages was not justifiable, as such resources were allocated for research purposes only.

If no agreement was reached by a March 28 meeting, Nehawu would issue a final notice to Nedlac for a rolling mass action.

## AUDITS ON SIX CAMPUSES

# Probe into tertiary finances

ET 9/3/99

(54)

**EDUCATION MINISTER** Sibusiso Bengu announced plans to stabilise a crisis at historically black campuses.

**JOVIAL RANTAO** of our Parliamentary Bureau reports.

**T**HE government has launched a crackdown on historically black tertiary institutions whose financial mismanagement has led to campus protests. It has also warned that lecturers and officials who do not perform will be fired.

Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu announced yesterday, during a debate on his budget vote, that the Office of the Auditor General has started audits on six campuses to help the government get to the bottom of their financial malaise. The institutions to be probed are Fort Hare, Transkei, North-West, Zululand, Medunsa, and Turfloop.

Bengu said that the audits were part of the government's plan to use all tools available to stabilise a

troubling situation on several campuses where there was a crisis of leadership and institutional confidence.

The government is to spend R6,6bn on universities and technicians in this financial year.

In addition, the departments of education and finance are undertaking a review of higher education finance under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

"This work will guide us in achieving a sustainable funding system to drive the new institutional plans. These diagnostic and remedial measures will be buttressed by an important programme of leadership development for chief executives, councils and student leaders," Bengu said.

In order to eradicate fly-by-

night institutions, Bengu said that the private higher education institutions would be incorporated into the system through a strict accreditation and registration process. This was designed to protect the public from exploitation, and the integrity of the system from contamination by opportunists.

He also revealed that some businesspeople are to be employed to assist school principals and governing bodies with the running of their schools. The thrust of the education ministry's programme will be to "mobilise the public to enter into a social compact with government to restore confidence in public education".

Bengu said that discussions were underway to harness the professional and managerial resources of the strongest parts of the independent and public school sectors to forge partnerships for development between functioning and non-functioning schools.

"Accountability is the name of the game. All role-players in the public system — officials, principals, educators, parents, learners — must accept their responsibilities. Educators and officials who do not perform are not entitled to continued employment, and the appropriate disciplinary processes must be applied."

The Democratic Party has tabled new education proposals that would compel under-performing schools to offer a better service by giving the pupils and parents they serve the same breadth of choice that others have. This would be done by setting up "education enterprise zones" in the parts of the country where pupils are the most severely affected.

"Within these zones, prescribed teacher:pupil ratios and zoning regulations will be scrapped, and the procedures involved in setting up new schools will be relaxed," DP spokesperson Mike Ellis said.

# State gears up to blitz shady colleges

CHARLES PHAHLANE  
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

(74)

**The Government will clamp down on fly-by-night higher education colleges which offer worthless qualifications to an unsuspecting public.**

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said a strict accreditation and registration process would be introduced which would also protect the integrity of private higher education

institutions from contamination by opportunists.

He said the department would also incorporate a "slimmed-down" network of colleges of education during the next 12 months.

Dr Bengu said the department would establish the Higher Education Quality Committee, which would have statutory powers.

The department was seeking to stabilise troubling situations on several campuses, where there was a

"crises of leadership and institutional confidence."

He said he had appointed independent assessors to investigate serious breakdown on three campuses, including Fort Hare and the Vaal Triangle Technikon.

The auditor-general is conducting forensic audits of six campuses to address their financial problems. These are the universities of Zululand, Fort Hare, Transkei, North West, Medunsa, and Turfloop.

FRAG 9/3/99

# No to 'whites-only' body

(54) Sowetan 9/3/99

By Ndivhuwo Khangale

THE South African Students Congress has called for the immediate dissolution of Pretoria University's newly-appointed and whites-only student court.

Student court judges are students appointed by the SRC to deal with minor student issues. These positions are only for students who are doing law degrees. They resolve issues such as violations of the students' constitution and students politics.

Serious issues can be dealt with by the institution's disciplinary court.

In a statement released by the institution's branch yesterday, Sasco claimed that the judges were appointed by the university's students' representative council which was dominated by Afrikaner-led Freedom Front sympathisers.

Sasco branch secretary Mr Lucky Thekhishe said they had protested to the university's appeal committee against the appointment of the secretary and panel of judges.

He said the initial process of the appointments was against the "spirit of the preamble of the university's constitution for students' affairs, the student

governance and the South African national Constitution".

Thekhishe said: "The issue of gender and the diversity of the institution should be considered to make the court legitimate."

He said there were competent students from various race groups who could have been appointed. There are 54 percent of black students who are studying law.

He said Sasco, which comprised black students, was overlooked when the appointments were made, adding that the newly formed body comprised whites who supported the FF.

"We have been accused of speaking and knowing too much by the newly appointed body," Thekhishe said.

Sasco has appealed for an independent committee to interview and recommend best students to serve as judges.

Student court judges secretary Mr Paul de Bruyn said students were appointed on merit.

The current judges are the cream of the law students and unluckily the student court cannot on its own elect the judges.

De Bruyn said the student court would at all times enforce its motto of Justice for students by students.



# Student fury after varsity directors disappear

BY TEFU MOTHIBELI  
Education Reporter

A dream of graduating with internationally recognised degrees turned into a nightmare for hundreds of students after the directors of a Johannesburg private university disappeared with their enrolment fees.

About 600 students from all parts of the country registered with Braamfontein-based Centre for International Degrees, which claimed to be a local branch of the British-based International University of Management.

The irate students, who have been waiting in vain outside the institution's premises at Devonshire House in Jorissen Street, said they had already paid fees of R6 500, while others

lost deposits of about R2 000.

"This whole thing started when they postponed the beginning classes from February to March, citing problems with lack of space. When we returned on the Monday to start with the classes, none of the directors and lecturers were present, and the landlord at the new premises said we had been lied to as he had not been approached by the directors of the institution," Charity Mazibuko said.

The shattered 20-year-old, who had registered for a trade and tourism course, hopes that this is just a temporary setback.

Nineteen-year-old Papi Mofokeng said he could not believe his luck when he was admitted to pursue his studies with an

*SAFAR 10/3/99 (54)*  
"international" institution.

The students said they had laid fraud charges against the missing directors and also consulted lawyers to help them to recover their money.

Franz Gmeiner, managing director of Ezeza Property Holdings, owners of Devonshire House, said the actions of their tenants had caught them by surprise.

Gmeiner said they could be forced to take legal steps to recover R250 000 for the unexpired portion of the lease owed to them. He said they also owed R10 000 for the current month's rent.

"Should we be able to meet them, we will advise them to come back and sort out this problem by repaying the money they have taken from the

students," added Gmeiner.

Education ministry spokesperson Bheki Khumalo said the intensification of the ministry's campaign to get all private institutions to register with the Government would help to prevent such incidents from occurring.

"The Government is mindful of the need to protect unsuspecting students from being hoodwinked by conmen posing as operators of higher education institutions," he said.

According to the Higher Education Act, which came into effect in 1997, private institutions offering higher education have to register in order to enjoy official recognition.

Repeated phone calls to the institution's offices went unanswered.

# Historically black varsities face twin threat

By MOSES MTHEHELEU MACKAY

South Africa is wrestling with the question of whether it can afford 21 universities, some of them created under apartheid to bolster racial ideology.

Six of these institutions are being subjected to government crackdowns after chronic student unrest and allegations of mismanagement. They are the universities of Fort Hare, Transkei, North West, Zululand, Medunsa and Turfloop, where the government has started forensic audits to sniff out fraud, corruption and mismanagement.

The government has also warned that academic staff and officials who do not perform will be fired.

At the same time, the government has begun to investigate the viability of universities where there is a heavy concentration on

arts degrees, which have little practical use. A further threat to the universities is the growing trend towards technicians, where more-practical qualifications prepare students for jobs in the real world.

With the exception of Fort Hare, the historically black universities were created by the National Party government to bolster its grand apartheid policy by giving each ethnic group its own institution of higher learning.

The University of the Western Cape is one of those facing an uncertain future, but its rector, Cecil Abrahams, has cautioned the government against closing the old black universities. Professor Abrahams believes a national audit of universities should be made before any such steps were contemplated.

He said most black students studied at the 10 historically black institutions. "It is out of these communities that the crucial human

## Unrest and corruption prompt crackdown, while technicians are gaining in popularity

resources for rebuilding South Africa will come - we cannot simply reduce them before we have made a national audit."

Abrahams is also vice-chairperson of the SA Universities Vice-Chancellors Association.

He pointed out it was government policy to ensure that students from disadvantaged backgrounds were better represented at universities, and said a concerted effort had to be made to increase their presence.

Abrahams said all of SA's universities had been created under apartheid or colonial racist institutions before the democratic era.

He said black universities had been urging the government to redress the past so as to ensure that, at all levels, studies were equal to those at historically white universities. "We are calling on the government to level the playing field so that a degree or diploma taken at any black university will be of the same quality as that taken at a white university."

Since 1986, black universities had suffered severely from a government funding formula that had favoured white varsities, he added. The result of this discrimination had shown up in inadequate and poor infrastructure, fewer academic staff and the inability to deal

property with underprepared black students from woefully inadequate black schools.

To tackle these massive backlogs, the government had to be bold and provide these institutions with resources.

Bhaki Khumalo, spokesperson for Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, has hinted at the possible need to close some tertiary institutions. "There is a clear need to reassess the sustainability of the existing institutional landscape in higher education in relation to the optimal number and type of institutions required to meet the reconstruction and development needs of the country."

Most historically black varsities were in rural areas and lacked the infrastructure to attract and sustain an intellectual community. Khumalo added that officials from the ministries of finance and education would examine the future of higher learning. "We're

looking at the matter and will make an in-depth analysis. Only then will we know when and how to follow procedures. But the status quo won't change in the next few months."

The government was encouraging universities to work with one another and to strive for a common goal. They should share resources and improve co-ordination.

Khumalo said all tertiary institutions had submitted three-year plans to help determine the future of higher learning.

He added there had been a decline in student numbers at the old black universities and a move to the formerly white universities. At the same time, white students were leaving for private institutions, and there has been a proliferation of privately owned colleges.

Khumalo said about two-thirds of university students were enrolled in the humanities and a third in the natural sciences.

(174) Krow 19/9/99

# Black universities under threat

## Future of higher learning in the spotlight as Government introduces audits at six institutions

MOSES MTHEHELELI MACKAY

South Africa is wrestling with the question of whether it can afford 21 universities, some of which were created under apartheid to bolster racial ideology.

Six of the institutions are being subjected to crackdowns after chronic student unrest and allegations of mismanagement.

The Government has started forensic audits at the universities of Fort Hare, Transkei, North West, Zululand, Medunsa and Turtloop to sniff out fraud, corruption and mismanagement.

It has also warned that academic staff and officials who do not perform will be fired.

At the same time, the Government is investigating the viability of universities that concentrate on arts degrees, which have limited practical use in South Africa.

Meanwhile, the universities are under increasing threat from technicians, which are seen to offer more practical qualifications that will prepare students for jobs in the real world.

With the exception of Fort Hare, the historically black universities were created by the National Party government to bolster its grand apartheid policy by giving each ethnic group its own institution of higher learning.

The University of the Western Cape is one of those facing an uncertain future, but its rector Ceel Abrahams has cautioned the Government against closing the old black universities.

Professor Abrahams, the vice-chairman of South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association, said a national audit of universities should be undertaken before any such steps were contemplated.

He said most black students attended the 10 historically black



**DON'T BE TOO HASTY:** Professor Ceel Abrahams, rector of UWC, has proposed that a national audit of universities be held before the historically black universities are closed

institutions. "It is out of these communities that the crucial human resources for rebuilding South Africa will come. We cannot simply reduce them before we have made a national audit."

He pointed out it was government policy to ensure that students from

disadvantaged backgrounds were better represented at universities and said a concerted effort had to be made to increase their presence.

Professor Abrahams said South Africa's universities had all been created under apartheid or colonial conditions. Therefore, they had all

been racist institutions before the introduction of democracy.

He said black universities had been calling on the Government to "redress" the past so that studies, at all levels, would be equal to those at historically white universities.

"We are calling on the Govern-

ment to level the playing field so that a degree or diploma taken at any black university will be of the same quality as that taken at a white university."

After 1996, black universities had suffered severely because of a government-funding formula that had

favoured white universities, said Professor Abrahams.

That discrimination had resulted in poor infrastructure, fewer academic staff and the universities' inability to deal properly with underprivileged black students from woefully inadequate black schools.

To tackle these massive backlogs, the Government had to be bold and provide the institutions with resources.

But Bheki Khumalo, speaking for Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, hinted at the need to close some tertiary institutions.

"There is a clear need to re-assess the sustainability of the existing institutional landscape in higher education in relation to the optimal number and type of institution required to meet the reconstruction and development needs of the country."

Mr Khumalo said most historically black universities were in rural areas and lacked the infrastructure to attract and sustain an intellectual community.

He said a team of officials from the Finance and Education departments would examine the future of higher learning.

"We are looking at the matter and we will make an in-depth analysis. We will know only then when and how to follow procedures. But the status quo won't change in the next months."

He said the Government was encouraging the universities to work with each other and to strive for a common goal. The universities should share resources and improve coordination.

Mr Khumalo said all tertiary institutions had submitted institutional three-year plans to help determine the future of higher learning.

He said there had been a decline of student numbers in the old black universities and a move to the formerly white universities.

At the same time, white students were leaving for private institutions - there had been a proliferation of privately owned colleges.

Mr Khumalo said about two-thirds of university students were enrolled in the humanities and only a third in the natural sciences.

# Famous East Cape varsity in cash crisis

By PATRICK BURNETT

A TOP-level probe into corruption at the cash-strapped Fort Hare University has revealed massive financial irregularities in virtually every facet of university life.

Warning that the university could face closure unless stringent recommendations were adopted, former University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders slammed vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzamane, unions and academics for their role in the worsening conditions at the university.

Saunders was commissioned under the Higher Education Act by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to compile the report a month ago following widespread allegations of corruption at the university.

"If the financial position does not radically change for the better, there will be no choice in the matter: Fort Hare will cease to be a university," said Saunders.

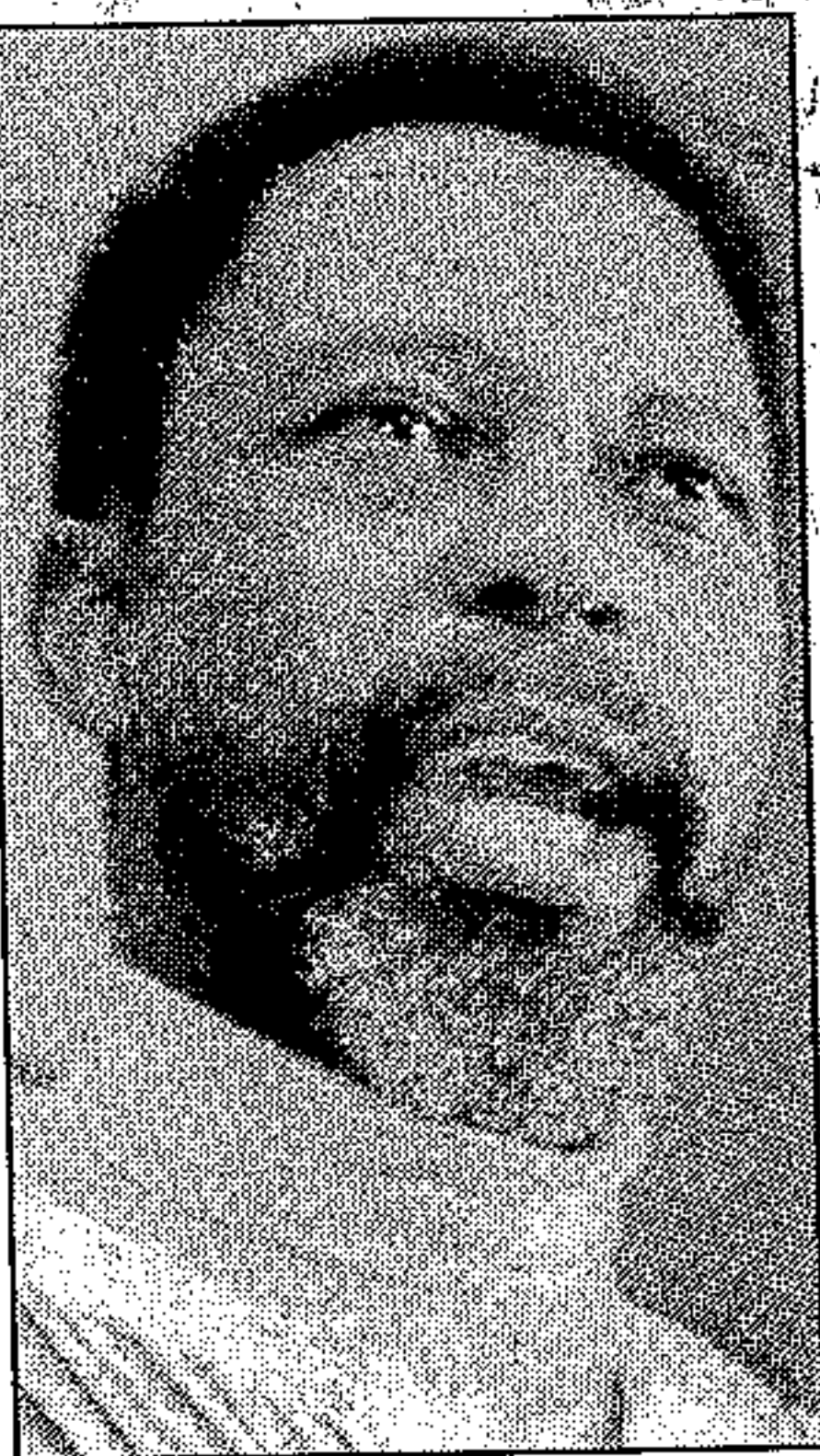
Recommending that Mzamane's contract not be renewed, Saunders hinted at irregularities in the

renewal of Mzamane's contract in 1998.

Minutes of a meeting held on November 10, 1998 reveal that Mzamane's re-appointment was resolved by a secret ballot of 54 voters.

Saunders said: "What puzzles me is that 54 people attended the meeting, including the vice-chancellor's special assistant, the acting deputy registrar and the minuting secretary, and to reach a figure of 54 all three of these non-members of senate would have had to vote."

The report also said documents existed at the university showing that Mzamane had



**TIME TO GO . . .** Prof Mbulelo Mzamane has been slammed by Stuart Saunders for his role in Fort Hare's financial crisis.

been using cash from Fort Hare University coffers to bankroll 75 percent of his daughter's academic and residence fees at the prestigious Boston University in the US since 1995.

Saunders said Section 4.7 of the December 1997 University rules states that a study subsidy may be paid to overseas universities provided that "special arrangements have been made with the vice-chancellor and the funds are available. If assistance has to be given at all, it will be based on the Fort Hare fees structure, unless the fees charged by the university are less than the admission fees charged by Fort Hare."

The Boston University web page on the Internet shows that one year there will cost about US\$36 000 (about R225 000). This does not include residence fees. Furthermore, the payments of fees to Boston University were made out directly to Mzamane and not to the educational institution as stipulated.

Interviewed by ECN in Pretoria late on Friday, Mzamane said he had yet to receive a copy of the report.

P.T.O

CP 14/3/99

(54)

# Fort Hare in financial crisis

# Fort Hare official 'used cash for US fees'

(54)

PATRICK BURNETT

ST 14/3/99

UNIVERSITY of Fort Hare vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzamane has been using cash from the university coffers to bankroll 75 percent of his daughter's fees at the prestigious Boston University in the US since 1995, according to an independent assessor's report into allegations of mismanagement at the institution.

Recommending that Mzamane's contract not be renewed, former University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders said in his independent assessor's report that the university could face closure.

Saunders was commissioned by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to compile the report a month ago following the non-payment of staff salaries earlier this year and revelations that the university would be R70-million in the red by the time it received its government subsidy in April.

Saunders found that the university faced a major financial crisis. The option of closing it should be taken "seriously", he said, given the cash-flow projections and occurrences on campus. By year-end the university's overdraft is expected to be R52-million, and by the end of 2000 it will have shot up to R71-million.

Saunders said university rules state that a study subsidy may be paid to overseas universities if "special arrangements have been made with the vice-chancellor and the funds are available".

The rules further state: "If assistance has to be given at all, it will be based on the Fort Hare fees structure, unless the fees charged by the university are less than the admission fees charged by Fort Hare."

The payments of fees to Boston University were made out directly to Mzamane and not to the educational institution as stipulated.

Mzamane said he had yet to receive a copy of the report. But he said the payment of 75 percent of his daughter's fees had been part of his contractual arrangements with the university and had been negotiated as part of his conditions of service.

# Students must be wary

## of private institutions

Government cannot help against tricksters

By Tefo Motshwari  
Mar 15/99  
(54)

BY TEFO MOTSHWARI  
Education Reporter

Students registering at private learning institutions had better beware - the Government will not accept responsibility if the institution goes bust.

This warning has been sounded by the Department of Education after pleas from cheated students seeking assistance to recover their money.

An Education Department official, who did not want to be named, said that until January next year, by which time all private education institutions should be registered, the Government did not have any jurisdiction over such institutions.

He said that according to the Higher Education Act, which came into effect in 1997, all private institutions are compelled to submit their applications for registration by the end of this month.

Before the existence of the act, operators were not required to register.

"If we do not have their application forms by the end of the month, we cannot guarantee that we will have sufficient time to process them before the end of the year," he added.

For now, students planning to register with these institutions should rigorously check all claims made by the institution they want to join because the Government does not yet have the relevant information. "People have entered into contracts blindly as if they were dealing with public institutions," he said.

While there have been incidents where students have been ripped off, some of these institutions have been operating

fairly with their clients.

The challenge for the Government, the official said, lay in expanding the role of educationally sound and sustainable private higher education institutions in terms of the applicable South African legislation.

The legislation, for the first time, empowers the Government to root out institutions that provide poor-quality education and to smash unsustainable fly-by-night operations.

The Government hopes to achieve this through stringent conditions which the applicants have to meet to earn the right to operate.

### Legislation

#### will help to root out

#### 'fly-by-night' operators

Among other things, the applicants have to prove that their education services are comparable to or better than those offered by public institutions and that they have a sound financial base.

Applications of two institutions under the same name, acronym, shortened form or derivative thereof (or where these may be so similar as to cause confusion in the public) will not be approved.

The department also reserves the right not to register institutions with names it considers to be undesirable or misleading, or where an institution, without authority, uses the name of a foreign higher education institution.

The onus of proof, in all

cases, will rest on the institution seeking registration.

The applicants may also not practise discrimination on the basis of race in its staffing and enrolment policies.

For every new qualification a private higher education institution wishes to offer, written comments of the relevant industry, vocational councils, associations, institutes, bodies, societies, interest groups or bodies regulating this vocation at the national level may be submitted to support the application.

In all cases, however, where statutory professional councils are involved, such written comments are compulsory.

The institution's annual financial statements will also be subjected to an external audit.

In particular, the auditor's report must state that, in the auditor's opinion, the institution is financially sustainable and capable of satisfying its obligations to its students.

To do this, the auditor may request the institution to comply with any additional requirements. Such requirements could include the institution's prospectus and a viable five-year business plan.

The applicants would have to set up a fidelity fund or some other form of surety or guarantee to cover at least two years of their operations.

They also have to enter into co-operation agreements with other registered or public institutions, in which the other institutions undertake to absorb students from a defaulting institution at no additional cost to the student, towards a qualification of at least equal standard, or even refund students' expenses.

## Father paid cash for bogus university course

By Tefo Motshwari

Soweto resident Alfred Zwane (41) is one of hundreds of parents who may have lost the money they had put aside for their children's education after the directors of a Johannesburg private university apparently disappeared with the enrolment fees.

Zwane paid R5 100 in cash to the Braamfontein-based Centre for International Degrees, which claimed to be a local branch of the British-based International University of Management.

The money was intended as payment for the first year of an alleged three-year course for his eldest daughter Cynthia (19). "I did not have enough money, so I took out a loan at work," said Zwane.

He said it was his dream to see his children have what he never had, namely a good education and the chance to obtain a university degree.

When Cynthia asked him for money to enrol for a financial information systems degree at a private university this year, Zwane obliged.

But things took a dramatic turn on the day Cynthia was supposed to have started her classes.

"She returned home and said the premises of the institution were locked and none of the directors and lecturers were available," he said.

Cynthia returned to the building for several days and experienced the same thing.

It turned out that she is one of about 600 youngsters who have paid enrolment fees ranging from R2 000 to R6 500 to an institution whose directors seem to have disappeared.

When the disappointed father went to the school to investigate himself, security guards would not allow him into the building.

"They gave me two cell-phone numbers, to speak to the directors of the school.

"Each time I ring the numbers, I'm told they don't exist. I have run out of ideas on what to do next," Zwane said.



ZOE SELSKY

Shattered dream ... Cynthia and Alfred Zwane have lost money following the disappearance of the directors of a "private university" where Cynthia had enrolled.

He is not only worried about the money he may have lost, but is mostly concerned that his dream of seeing Cynthia graduate may now never come true.

"What makes it worse is that I do not think it will be possible to raise another loan before the first one is fully repaid," Zwane said. He still has the education of four other children to provide for. Some of the other students said they had laid fraud charges. Police are investigating the matter.

# Vice-chancellors miffed at having finances investigated

By EDWIN NAIDU

(74)

Star 16/3/99

The heads of 10 universities and seven historically disadvantaged technikons are seething over comments by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu that some of them were bad financial managers and were to blame for the problems at their institutions.

University of the Western Cape vice-chancellor Professor Cecil Abrahams said black heads of tertiary institutions were hurt by Bengu's statements in which he referred to the troubles at six historically disadvantaged institutions.

Abrahams said vice-chancellors had discussed Bengu's attack during a meeting in Pretoria on Friday and resolved to meet the minister to take up their concerns.

Bengu made the comments in Parliament last week when he said the troubles at six universities - Fort Hare, the North, Zululand, Transkei, North West and Medunsa - had

prompted the director-general, Dr Chabanyi Manganyi, in association with the auditor-general, to probe the six.

"No vice-chancellor at historically disadvantaged institutions is not trying his or her best. We are hurt by Bengu's statement and would like to meet him to discuss our concerns," Abrahams said.

He added that black vice-chancellors were concerned that only six institutions were being probed, since the National Commission on Higher Education and Parliament's education portfolio committee had both proposed an audit of all universities and technikons.

"All were created under apartheid and should all be subjected to a probe," he said.

However, Bheki Khumalo, spokesperson for Bengu, said the six institutions were being probed because of their large overdrafts and evidence that "clearly something was wrong with their financial affairs".

# Chancellors deny racial split

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

(74)  
CT 16/7/99

THE South African Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association (SAUVCA) yesterday denied rumours that the organisation was split along racial divides.

Instead, says SAUVCA chief executive officer Piyushi Kotecha, impressive strides have been made towards unity within the organisation.

Kotecha stated emphatically that SAUVCA was not about to disintegrate along racial lines and the essential message of unity which they could broadcast was a triumph for negotiation, hard work and common sense.

"When the organisation, and indeed higher education as a whole, is placed in its historical context, the progress which has been made within SAUVCA over the past nine months is impressive."

The process of addressing the profound differences between the historically disadvantaged and historically advantaged universities has often been painful.

It has been an enriching process for all concerned, and there is no question of one category

being swallowed by the other, Kotecha said.

"A basic recognition within the organisation is that both historically disadvantaged and historically advantaged universities are part of higher education in South Africa, and that achieving unity across these old apartheid divisions is a tough process which cannot be achieved overnight.

"For certain sections of the media to have interpreted some of the rough edges of our metamorphosis as a signal of collapse and division, rather than attempting to place SAUVCA within its legitimate historical context, has been counter-productive.

"It reflects most negatively on those sections of the media themselves rather than on an organisation which has placed itself firmly at the centre of the transformation process currently sweeping every corner of our collective life," Kotecha said.

At least though, the old racial divisions which have bedevilled higher education in South Africa in the past are now being squarely faced.

This, he added, is a prerequisite for overcoming them.



# No racial split in association

5613191  
Soweto 16/3/91  
Soweto

(54)

THE South African Universities' Vice-Chancellors Association was not about to disintegrate or split along racial lines, the body's chief executive officer Piyushi Kotecha said yesterday.

He said in Johannesburg that the SAUVCA had embarked on a process of self-examination and transformation nine months ago and much progress had been made.

"This progress has revealed many problems and difficulties that still face the association.

"At least, though, the old racial divisions that have bedevilled higher education in South Africa since the opening decades of this century are now being squarely faced ... a prerequisite for overcoming them," he said.

Earlier in the year it was reported that the heads of 17 black universities and technikons would form their own association to fight for redress of historically disadvantaged institutions.

Spokesman for the group, University of Venda head Professor Gessler Nkondo, said no association in the country showed a commitment or desire to sincerely tackle the problems faced by these universities and technikons.

He said the black heads of institutions were unhappy with the SAUVCA's approach to their concerns.

Kotecha said the SAUVCA was busy transforming into a body representative of university education in post-apartheid South Africa.

"As such, a basic recognition within the organisation is that both historically disadvantaged and historically advantaged universities are part of higher education," Kotecha said. - Sapa.

# MPs slam Afrikaans medical schools over slow pace of change

CHARLES PHAHLANE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Transformation of medical schools at Afrikaans universities has been progressing at a slow pace but the medical deans are blaming factors outside their control.

During a presentation to Parliament by the universities of Stellenbosch, Free State and Pretoria it emerged that the enrolment of black, Indian and coloured students at these universities was low.

A questionnaire sent out to deans of medical faculties also found that the number of black, Indian and coloured graduates was very low.

Stellenbosch University did not have a black or Indian medicine graduate last year and 14 coloured graduates of a total of 143. Free State University had two coloured graduates and no Indian or black graduate out of 113. University of Pretoria had no black graduate and only three of 207 graduates were coloured.

But Jan Lochner, dean of Stellenbosch University, said the universities should not be blamed for the poor enrolment of black, Indian and coloured students.

He said the problem lay with the schooling "crisis" in the 1980s. He said students were not well prepared for tertiary education.

François le Roux, vice-dean of the University of Free State, where only 10% of new medical school students for this year is black, said black students preferred to study at universities at the coast or in Gauteng because the Free State was a "boring" province.

Some MPs questioned the explanations and said that admission criteria at these universities were

"systematically biased" against disadvantaged students.

"The selection criteria of these universities are not friendly, not fair and not committed to addressing the imbalances of the past," MP Nondiso Ranuya-Maphazi said.

Dr Lochner said the fact that no black or coloured student had graduated in medicine from Stellenbosch did not confirm any discrimination process other than academic considerations.

He said the number of white students in his faculty was dropping because they were purposely being discriminated against in favour of disadvantaged students.

The Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa) said it was struggling to fill nine vacancies for heads of department because it could not secure funding from the Gauteng government.

Mpumelelo Bonela, Medunsa's dean of medicine, said funding for the posts had to come from the budget of Garankuwa Hospital. This made it difficult to fill the posts.

He had asked for a comparison of funding for medical faculties at other universities because he believed they were under-funded. There were some doctors who had the clinical ability to be heads of departments but failed to qualify academically.

Dr Nkomo said there should be a central admissions centre for medical students.

South Africa was developing a database of the number of medical doctors needed so universities would know how many students to train.

The universities of Natal, Cape Town and Transkei will make a presentation today.

# Unisa agrees to use English as the official language

## The decision is seen as feasible, practical and definitely a 'workable compromise'

Alan 17/3/99 (521)

By EDWIN MAIRU

English is set to become the official language at the University of South Africa, but the country's other 10 official languages will be available on demand, according to Unisa spokesperson Doreen Gough.

She said English would be used by the university in all official documents and for tuition except where there was a demand for another language.

Gough said the university council decided last November to adopt a new language policy which serves all sectors of the country's population and was in line with the provisions of the Constitution and the government policy on higher education.

The decision to issue all official correspondence in English was in recognition of it being the commonly understood nationally and internationally by the community Unisa serves.

According to the policy Unisa will print all material in English and when there are sufficient numbers requiring Afrikaans, study guides will be printed.

"However, since most of our students are black (over 60%) and the languages spoken by most are either Zulu or Northern Sotho, these students would also have a right to ask to be taught in their language. As the policy says, where there is expertise available to teach through those languages, tuition will be available. I would say that English is definitely

being phased in," Gough added.

The move is the culmination of a process which began about 18-months ago when Unisa's Broad Transformation Forum recommended that English be the university's official language because it was the one language that everyone understood. The BTF said at the time that 31% of students preferred to communicate in English while Afrikaans made up 17%, Zulu 10% and Northern Sotho 9,8% of the student body.

The remaining students were from other language groups. The forum's draft proposal said all official oral and written communication should be in English and that meetings be chaired in English.

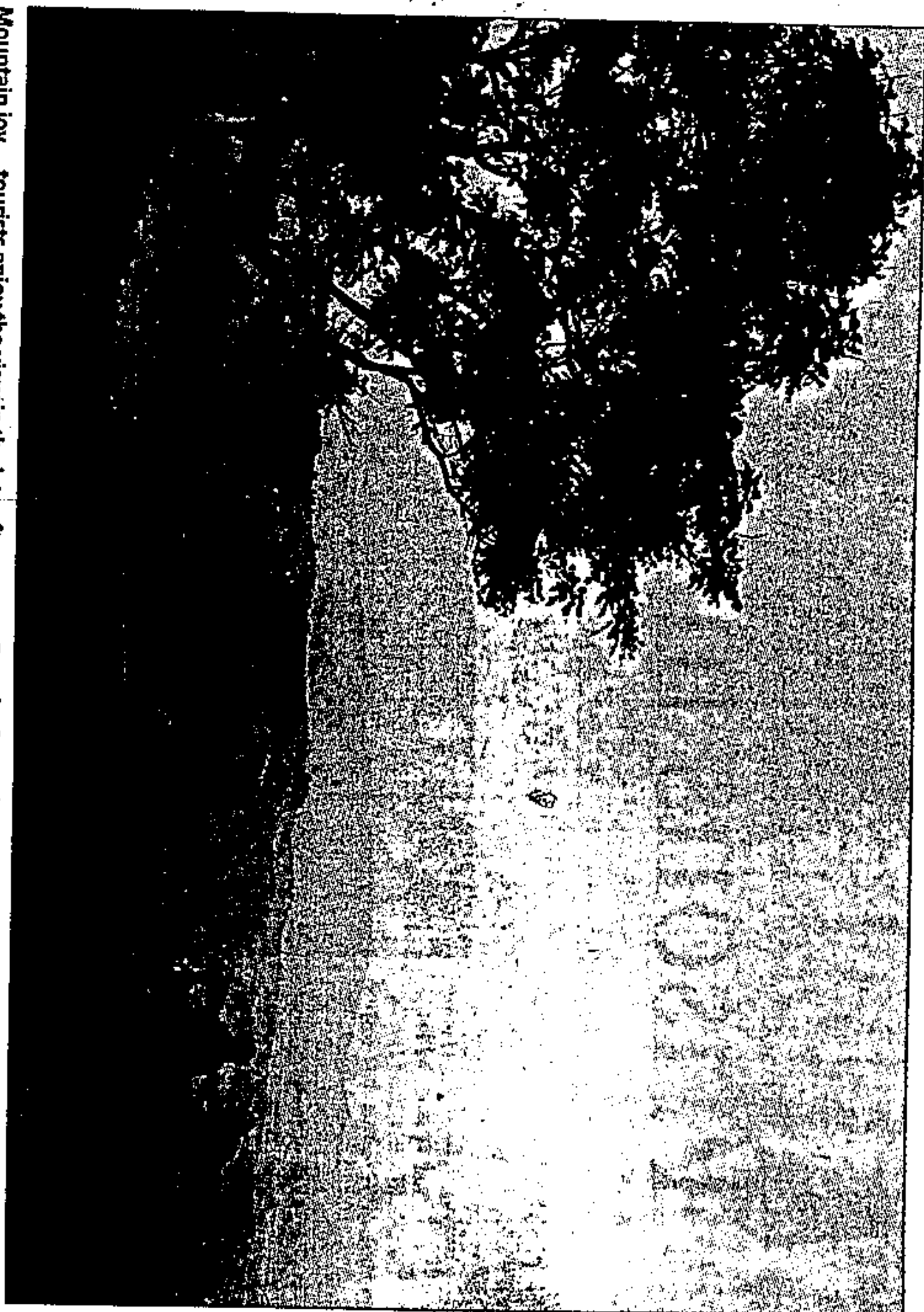
The decision announced yesterday was criticised by

Afrikaans languages politics academic Dr Babs Meiring, who said it was shocking that Afrikaans and the African languages were being ignored. "I can't understand it may be economically viable but it will hurt a lot of people," she said.

Head of Afrikaans Professor Piet Swanepoel, who was a member of the committee that drafted the policy, said it was a "workable compromise".

Senior lecturer in African politics Phil Mtshuku said it was not feasible to use all 11 languages but concessions must be made when required.

Department of Afrikaans academic Dr Johan Coetser said it was practical to have one language only provided students had the opportunity to use another of their choice.



Mountain joy ... tourists enjoy the view in the late afternoon at Bvumba Botanical Gardens in the Vumbe Mountains, Zimbabwe

## Students to challenge RAU expulsion

(54) Star 17/3/99.

By **TEFO MOTHIBELI**  
Education Reporter

Members of the Gauteng branch of the Pan Africanist Student Movement of Azania (Pasma) and the management of Rand Afrikaans University are at loggerheads over the expulsion of a student activist from the campus.

The organisation's provincial chairperson, Mpotseng Seoka, said they were going to exert pressure on the university to reinstate Pasma's campus chairperson, Malcolm X.

X was expelled from the campus after being charged with misconduct, which included defiance of authorities, disrespect, abuse and defamation.

"The university cooked up a misconduct excuse to get rid of Malcolm, who had always been vocal on the need to transform the racist character of the institution," Seoka said.

He said Pasma would mobilise hundreds of its members

to march to the campus grounds on Friday - with or without the permission of management - as a show of solidarity with X, and to demand his immediate reinstatement.

"We realise that the management of the university is naturally going to play some delaying tactics on the matter, hence we are going to make sure that they get the message about how serious we are on the issue," he said.

He added that though Pasma appreciated efforts made by the Human Rights Commission to intervene in the matter, "we feel that if they had moved swiftly, they could have prevented Malcolm's expulsion".

RAU spokesperson Sonia Payne said a committee which conducted a disciplinary hearing against X found that his behaviour "was inconsistent with one who sought to take advantage of an environment of learning, and that he demonstrated himself to be disruptive, and indeed destructive".

# Union claims UCT has declared war

ARG 17/3/99

## Clash over termination of agreement

ANDREA BOTHA  
STAFF REPORTER

**Trouble is looming again at the University of Cape Town after the termination of an agreement of recognition between the university and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union.**

The agreement is a standard document, spelling out working conditions and responsibilities of the university and the union.

A union spokesman said the university's action was seen as "a declaration of war".

UCT spokeswoman Helen Zille said the termination of the agreement followed Nehawu's refusal to take part in a meeting between the university and the union last week.

The union had given notice that it would not take part in any future university structures with management until workers dismissed after

the disciplinary hearings following the 1998 strike had been reinstated.

Nehawu Western Cape chairman Andrew Madella said the termination of the agreement had come as a complete surprise to the union.

He said Nehawu representatives had walked out of a meeting with management last week, but never had any intention of withdrawing from the agreement.

The meeting had discussed the university's dismissal of two Nehawu workers after last year's strike on the campus.

The university claimed the workers were dismissed for serious misconduct after a disciplinary hearing. Nehawu wanted the workers reinstated.

Mr Madella said he had not expected that UCT, with its liberal history, would react in this manner, and said the incident had been blown out of proportion.

"The university is union bash-

ing," said Mr Madella.

The termination of the agreement would only increase the tension on campus, and would compel Nehawu members to use their collective power.

"This is a declaration of war. That is clear to us," he said.

It was possible the university was trying to demobilise Nehawu so that large-scale retrenchment on the campus could be initiated.

He said the union would meet soon to discuss what steps should be taken.

Ms Zille responded: "A recognition agreement is a series of rights and obligations for all the parties involved.

"Nehawu has continued to demand rights, while ignoring and flouting its obligations.

"This is a material breach of the recognition agreement. Nehawu has brought this situation on itself," she said.

(54)

# Black students favour Afrikaans universities

(74)

DD 17/3/99

Farouk Chothia

CAPE TOWN — Black student enrolment at historically white Afrikaans universities was growing at a higher rate than at English-speaking universities, an education department official said yesterday.

Ahmed Essop, the chief director of higher education planning, told the National Assembly's education portfolio committee that 69% of students at Afrikaans universities were expected to be blacks by 2001. This was compared with 64% in 1997 and 56% in 1993.

Fewer students were attending historically black universities, he said.

When it came to Afrikaans technikons, blacks were expected to make up 79% of students by 2001 compared with 48% in 1993 and 76% in 1997, Essop said.

He included Indians and coloureds in

the definition of blacks. Essop did not give figures for the number of black students at English-speaking universities, but said the intake was not growing as fast as it was at Afrikaans institutions.

Committee chairman Blade Nzimande said racism at Afrikaans universities could not be ignored. Some of them tended to keep their main campus "lily-white" while setting up satellite campuses in black townships, he said.

Essop said white students were increasingly enrolling at private institutions, as were black students of wealthier families. However, some of the institutions were fly-by-night colleges. Six of them had closed in the past two or three weeks after an exposé by SABC television, Essop said.

He said the change in the student make-up of the institutions would have to be backed up by sufficient funding, otherwise "bottle-necks" would worsen.

Council for higher education CEO Saleem Badat said there would be an impact on language policy as some of the students enrolling at the Afrikaans and English-speaking universities had the two languages as their second, third and even fourth language.

Essop said projections were that the overall growth in the student population of all universities and technikons would rise to 685 000 in 2001, compared with 594 000 in 1997 and 496 000 in 1993.

More students were enrolling at technikons, whose intake had grown 45% from 1993 to 1997, while that of universities had grown 20%.

Essop said change in the racial make-up of staff was lagging.

The number of white staff, both academic and nonacademic, at Gauteng universities and technikons stood at 97% in 1990. The figure in 1997 was 90%. Whites made up 83% of staff in the Western Cape in 1990. The figure had dropped to only 79% in 1997, Essop said. Few institutions had drawn up clear employment equity plans, Essop said.

Badat said that he was unsure of where academics would come from in 25 or 30 years. An academic profession was no longer seen as an attractive career option, especially among black students, Badat said.

Meanwhile, Primarashni Pillay reports that the SA Students' Congress questioned the increase in numbers of black students at Afrikaans institutions. It said that language policies and attitudes towards black students were possible deterrents against them enrolling there.

# Fort Hare students man the barricades

(64)

East London – Students and workers at the financially troubled University of Fort Hare at Alice in the Eastern Cape barricaded the institution's main entrance yesterday in an attempt to keep out three senior administrators.

This followed an investigation into the university's financial affairs by former University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders, who recommended that the contract of Fort Hare's vice-chancellor, Professor Mbulelo Mzamane, not be renewed.

Saunders found that Fort Hare's overdraft could climb to R71-million by the end of next year, and that the institution had been unable to balance and reconcile year-end tax certificates. *seen 19/3/99*

Saunders said it was clear there had been inadequate financial controls at a number of levels at the university.

Students barricaded the campus to prevent Mzamane, deputy vice-chancellor Professor Ntobeko Maqhashalala and registrar Dr Isaac Mabindisa from entering.

On Wednesday, workers and students resolved to stop the three from ever setting foot on the campus.

Confrontation was avoided yesterday because Mzamane was reported to be out of town, while Maqhashalala was on a sick leave and Mabindisa was at the institution's satellite campus in Bisho.

Speaking from Bisho, Mabindisa said the university management was still in charge.

They were monitoring the situation from Bisho, and law enforcement agencies had been informed of what was happening on the main campus.

"We hope people will conduct themselves in an orderly manner so that university businesses can continue," he added. – Sapa

## Auditors to scrutinise six universities' books

(54) BD 19/3/99  
Primarashni Pillay

THREE top auditing firms — KPMG, Deloitte & Touche and PriceWaterhouseCoopers — have been appointed to audit the books of six cash-strapped black universities.

Auditor-General Henry Kluever, who appointed the auditors at the request of Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, said recommendations on "drastic" measures to deal with students who owed fees and the possible closure of some university departments could follow.

Bengu authorised the appointments after saying earlier this year it was necessary to audit universities with huge overdrafts. This is the first time that such an audit is being undertaken. SA's higher education institutions are currently in dire financial straits. It is believed that institutions are owed more than R700m in fees. The Medical University of SA is owed about R50m and the University of Zululand about R61m.

Kluever said yesterday that KPMG would audit Fort Hare and Medunsa; the universities of the North and North West would be audited by Deloitte & Touche; and PriceWaterhouseCoopers would audit the universities of Transkei and Zululand. He said that government's intervention at these universities was necessary as some had overshot their budgets. "The audit would be ... forensic — if money went missing the auditors would have to find out what happened. There will also be management performance audits and a look into structural problems."

The auditors would also draw up business plans for the universities, to be approved by Bengu's office.

Kluever said recommendations could include "drastic" measures for students with outstanding fees and possibly closing some university departments.

The process will get off the ground next month.

Prof Saleem Badat, director of the education policy unit of the University of the Western Cape, said the financial state of these universities spurred Bengu to approach the auditor-general's office. However, he cautioned that the choice of academic programmes was not



STUDENTS and workers at the financially troubled University of Fort Hare at Alice in the Eastern Cape yesterday barricaded the institution's main entrance in an attempt to prevent three senior administrators from entering.

This follows an investigation into the university's financial affairs by former University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Professor Stuart Saunders, who recommended that the contract of Fort Hare's vice-chancellor, Professor Mbululo Mzamane, not be renewed.

Saunders found that Fort Hare's overdraft could climb to R71 million by the end of the year 2000, and that the institution had been unable to balance and reconcile year-end tax certificates. Saunders said it was clear there had been inadequate financial control at a number of levels at the university.

# Fort Hare students Workers shut out dons

(574)

Students barricaded the campus to prevent Mzamane, deputy vice-chancellor Professor Ntobeko Maghashalala and registrar Dr Isaac Mabindisa from entering.

On Wednesday a workers' and students' meeting resolved to stop the three from "ever again setting foot on the campus".

Confrontation was only avoided yesterday by the fact that Mzamane was "out of town", Maghashalala was

"on sick leave" and Mabindisa was at the institution's satellite campus in Bisho.

Speaking from Bisho, Mabindisa said the university management was still in charge.

Management was monitoring the situation from Bisho and the "law enforcement agencies of the country have been informed" of what was happening on the main campus.

"We hope that people will conduct

themselves in an orderly manner so that university businesses can continue."

Mabindisa said the university's management was in constant contact with the institution's council which passed on information on the latest developments. Council vice-chairman Dr Louis Skweyiya said the body would meet next Thursday to discuss Saunders' report.

The controversial television series *Yizo Yizo* has been blamed by

South African teachers and school principals for growing classroom violence, according to a report yesterday. The *Cape Argus* newspaper, quoting educators, said classrooms had been burnt and teachers attacked since *Yizo Yizo*, which explores gangsterism, drug-taking and violence in schools by means of a classroom drama, began airing last month.

The series is an attempt by the SABC to realistically depict education in black schools as a result of years of apartheid rule, which seriously underfunded black education in favour of whites.

SABC spokeswoman Mari Murray said that while the corporation was aware of the controversy surrounding the screening of the series, it believed *Yizo Yizo* was "educational and reflects what is happening in our schools".

*Journalist 19/3/99*

# Varsity rector in bid to keep TRC post

*The head of the TRC hopes to hold on to his post, despite his recent appointment as rector of the University of the North, writes Ann Eveleth*

**T**ruth and Reconciliation Commission CEO Biki Minyuku is bidding to keep his current post after he takes on new responsibilities — and a R1-million salary package — as head of one of South Africa's most troubled universities next month.

But Minyuku launched an angry tirade last week — in a memo leaked to the *Mail & Guardian* — against truth commission staffers lobbying for severance pay when the commission winds down, accusing them of “pump[ing] to dig deep into the taxpayers’ pockets”.

Minyuku handed in his resignation on February 1, after agreeing to take the hot seat as rector of the University of the North, but backed tracked at a February 19 amnesty committee meeting when, according to the minutes of that meeting, he asked the committee to “seriously consider whether it has to or must replace its outgoing CEO or not”.

Minyuku suggested that he could

shuttle between Pietersburg and Cape Town to wrap up the truth commission's financial affairs until the end of 1999. Amnesty committee chair Judge Hassan Mall said the committee would consider this proposal, but added “there are no other proposals of other people taking up the post”.

It is unclear whether Minyuku will retain his current salary if his proposal is accepted. He earned the staff nickname as “the 18th commissioner” when he successfully lobbied for the same salary package as the 17 commissioners.

Like the commissioners, Minyuku stands to receive four months' severance pay — at a rate equivalent to that of a high court judge — and the option to purchase the truth commission car he has used for the past three years at 40% of the purchase price, say commission insiders.

In stark contrast, ordinary TRC staffers stand to leave their jobs with nothing more than their final pay cheque. When 80 staff members



**In the hot seat: Biki Minyuku**

wrote to Minyuku last month demanding talks about severance pay, he accused them of using “outmoded clandestine techniques and/or illegal actions”, and urged their representatives “to dismount their pseudo expert old white horses”.

The staff memo pleaded with Minyuku to re-open the severance issue — rejected by the Commission on

Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration last year because staff leaving the TRC at the time had approached the issue too late — on the grounds that remaining staff had served the commission for three years with “no benefits, small yearly increases and no 13th cheque”.

“Staff have executed their duties with a spirit of pride and joy and have many times neglected their personal lives and responsibilities ... We now insist that the TRC consult with staff in terms of Section 189 and 196 of the Labour Relations Act ... Please let us have your response within seven days hereof, failure whereof we will have no option but to declare a dispute with the TRC,” the staff memo said.

Truth commission insiders point out that staff who did much of the commission's footwork received an average salary of around R70 000 a year, and unlike many senior commission members would not be walking into well-paid positions quickly in the current job market.

They add that it is an “open secret” that Minyuku has spent considerable time over the past year away from his post, serving on the ministerial commission of inquiry into the transformation of defence in-

telligence appointed last April. Department of Intelligence representative Helmut Schleiter confirmed that Minyuku serves on the commission, but could not say how much time he spends on the project or what remuneration he receives for it.

Minyuku told staff that their memo was “an affront and an insult ... against my person, the entire principled leadership and every privileged TRC member who ever graced our humble institution”.

Dubbing the signatories “self-professed TRC veterans”, he told them that “long service should never be confused with commitment. Committed staff are not schemers, they will never think-let alone plan, to disrupt the smooth functioning of a project of national significance ...”

Minyuku warned commission staff that if they “dare” to down tools, “the universal principal of no work no pay will apply and above all, you will by the way, constructively and effectively be dismissing yourselves”.

Minyuku did not respond to repeated requests for an interview this week. Truth commission representative Mdu Lembede said Minyuku was the only person who could comment on the matter.

MTG 19-25/3/99 (74)

# Corrupt varsity officials to face charges

(54)

M+G 19-27/3/99

The education ministry has requested forensic audits into the financial affairs of six black universities, writes **Evidence wa ka Ngobeni**

**W**ith black universities on the brink of collapse, the Ministry of Education has said that criminal charges will be laid against university managers if they are found to have abused taxpayers' money.

This follows Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu's statement last week that financial problems in black universities were due to bad financial managers.

Bengu has asked the auditor general to set up a team to conduct a forensic investigation into the financial affairs of the Medical University of South Africa and the universities of Transkei, Fort Hare, Zululand, North-West and the North.

The six have incurred huge deficits, have low student enrolment and have accumulated student debt totalling more than R200-million in the past three years.

"On the basis of the forensic audits, those who are found to have misused money will have to face criminal charges," said education ministry representative Bhekli Khumalo.

The culture of learning and teaching

has collapsed. At Fort Hare University, for example, according to a report for the ministry by former University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders, most of the staff who turn up at the campus each day do not work at all.

"Something has gone wrong with the financial management in these six universities. We really want to get to the root of this financial crisis," said Khumalo.

This week the scale of financial mismanagement at Technikon Northern Gauteng was revealed when students claimed officials had misused R600 000. Rector George Lenyai and five other officials were suspended by the institution's council for alleged financial mismanagement and abuse of taxpayers' money.

The parliamentary portfolio committee on higher education recently recommended that forensic audits be conducted in all the country's 27 universities. But Bengu has singled out only these six because of their large deficits and improper financial controls.

At this stage, however, said Khumalo, "we are not necessarily considering closure of any of these universities, but the team that has been appointed will determine whether there is a need to close them down or what can be done to assist".

In his report Saunders noted that Fort Hare lacks leadership.

He charged that its administration fails to follow correct financial and management procedures.

Between 1990 and 1991 Fort Hare had 7 000 students with a government grant of R41-million. Today it has 3 500 students with government funding of R101-million, a financial deficit of between R40-million and R60-million, and outstanding student debt totalling R17-million.

But University of the Western Cape Education Policy Unit director Professor Saleem Badat says the financial problems at universities could be solved by bringing policy changes and building capacity among officials.

Badat adds that new management systems aimed at promoting good governance are needed at universities.

Badat, who believes financial problems should not be blamed only on corrupt managers and lack of financial management skills, says universities need to start building a culture of planning in order to detect problems and challenges.

He believes black universities have made a "strategic mistakes". The institutions opened doors

to students who did not pay their fees. And with the government's subsidy cuts, black universities increasingly relied on fees to finance the institutions. This resulted in huge student debt.

More and more black students are leaving historically black universities for former white universities, which has resulted in low registration at black universities.

Badat says the education ministry's audit of the six universities must point to potential and actual causes of financial problems they face in order to solve the problem.

The universities of the North and North-West are equally under-resourced and are often disrupted by students protesting over increases in tuition fees and financial exclusion. Both have overdrafts of between R30-million and R40-million and a student debt of more than R15-million.

The University of the North is also the subject of two investigations of alleged financial mismanagement.

Last year, Bengu appointed advocate Louis Skweyiya to investigate the University of Transkei. It has a student debt of about R16-million and with overdrafts projected at R34-million. Skweyiya's report led to the departure of Transkei's rector, Alfred Moleah.

The University of Zululand has had a lowest enrolment in years and the highest student debt of the six universities. By February 15 it had registered only 1 278 students.

The education ministry is expected to make its final decision on the fate of the six institutions after the forensic audits.



Education minister: Sibusiso Bengu

ANDRÉ JURGENS

THE most lucrative posts at Fort Hare University — home to some of Africa's greatest scholars — were held by goat herders and drivers.

Long hours and weekend work allowed these staff members to earn up to R6 000 a month in overtime.

These and other stinging revelations are contained in an independent assessor's report into allegations of mismanagement at the university.

Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu, himself a former student of the university, ordered an investigation into its affairs a month ago after learning it was millions of rands in the red.

The university, near Alice in the Eastern Cape, is the intellectual home of generations of leaders in the struggle for freedom on the sub-continent.

Among its past students are President Nelson Mandela, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo and businessman Dr Nthato Motlana.

# There's gold in them thar goats

(54) ST 21/2/99

But the probe by former University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders revealed a bleak picture. His report, read to angry students, threw the campus into turmoil this week. Workers and students barricaded the gates, vowing that its three top managers would "never set foot there again".

Saunders said that not many of the university's cars were in running order, yet there were nine drivers on the payroll earning up to R6 000 a month in overtime.

"The most lucrative jobs at the university in 1998 were said to be the drivers and herders of goats on the experimental farm because they have to work early in the

morning, late at night and over the weekend and therefore are in a position to claim large amounts of overtime," said Saunders.

According to his report, the institution is sinking into a serious financial crisis. Statements over the years showed there was a surplus of R4,8-million in 1989. By contrast, the university will be R52-million in debt by December this year.

Saunders said he was astonished to learn that some staff were given up to five years sabbatical leave on full pay and that the average academic worked only two and a half days a week.

He said two of them were paid for the whole of last year although one allegedly never set foot on campus and another spent only three hours there during 1998. Another was paid in full despite being on sick leave for a year.

Saunders questioned how the executive committee of the council approved the spending of R420 320 on a Miriam Makeba concert last year, "given the serious state of the university's finances".

Vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzama was singled out for using university funds to pay 75 percent of his daughter's fees at a university in Boston, in the US, since 1995.



**INCOMPETENT?...** Campus Registrar of Vista University on the East Rand, David Matenche, says he has to make decisions enforcing campus rules, making him unpopular with students. **■Pic: PANYAZA MCINEKA**

# Campus Registrar not fazed by accusations (54)

ep 21/3/99

By **MOIPONE KOMANE**

THE FUTURE of a top academic at Vista University's East Rand campus hangs in the balance after students accused him of being underqualified and inefficient.

The students, demanding the resignation of campus registrar, David Matenche, claim he does not deserve the position because he has no relevant qualifications.

They added that Matenche, who previously worked as a security guard at that campus, was "incompetent and lacked managerial skills".

They allege that he failed Economics 3 about three times and has not registered with the university this year. Students demanded that he resign as there were people better qualified to occupy that demanding position.

However, the university's spokesperson Johan Benade dismissed the allegations.

Benade told City Press that Ma-

tenche only had a matric certificate when he joined the university in 1987 as a junior administrative officer in campus administration. He said Matenche worked his way through the ranks of the campus administration and was promoted to senior administrative officer in 1995.

He said when Matenche was appointed campus registrar in 1996, this was according to standard Vista practice, using a panel of representatives from student structures, campus management and unions on the campus.

Benade said Matenche was currently in his final year of study towards a BA.

Matenche, among the first group that enrolled in 1987, said he was aware there were people who wanted to see him go down.

"I know there are people who have a vendetta against me. I'm surprised they took so long to approach City Press. I don't know why they are doing this to me because I haven't harmed them in any way," he said.

Matenche explained that he joined this institution at the age of 47 following a degree course in education when the rector asked him to help with students affairs because the position needed a mature and responsible person. He was appointed administrative officer that year and was promoted to senior administrative officer. In 1996 he was appointed campus registrar.

Matenche said what made him unpopular was that he enforced campus rules. He added that on several occasions he had refused to bend university rules to pander to the very students who reported him.

He angrily said that if he was as incompetent as the students allege, his boss, the vice-chancellor would have seen through him and relieved him of his duties.

Matenche added that his qualifications were no secret. "It is true that I'm struggling with Economics 3 because my job is so demanding and I sometimes have to work over the weekends."

# Study of technical colleges to help formulate W Cape policy

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

THE education and training unit of the National Business Initiative (NBI) has been commissioned by the Department of Education to conduct a situational analysis of Further Education and Training (FET) institutions in the Western Cape.

Institutions participating in the analysis include all the publicly funded technical and community colleges in the Western Cape, as well as a sample of technical secondary schools and the National Access Consortium.

The analysis will gather quantitative and qualitative information from these institutions to inform planning, funding and systems management decisions at the provincial level. The project was launched by provincial education minister Nick Koornhof earlier this month.

The situational analysis builds on earlier work done by the NBI in assisting the Department of Education to formulate FET policy. The NBI has already conducted an extensive survey of the technical college sector in Gauteng.

It takes place at a critical juncture in the history of technical and voca-

tional education in South Africa and key pieces of the national policy framework that will affect the technical and community colleges.

It is expected that this analysis, in conjunction with recent legislation such as the Further Education and Training Act, will impact significantly on a national policy implementation strategy for FET institutions.

The purpose of the analysis is to promote change in the Western Cape in accordance with national FET policy. The analysis aims to:

- Support the development of provincial policy.
- Inform the development of departmental systems and capacity.
- Promote the development of a sustainable management information system for FET in the province.
- Facilitate the development of high quality, responsive FET institutions in the province.

The Western Cape Education Department, the departments of Labour and Trade and Industry, the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, community and teacher organisations, the college sector and participating institutions will be involved.

The collection of data on FET insti-

tutions will also assist with the planning of a national management information system. The analysis will begin to develop a relationship between national, provincial and institutional processes of data collection.

The Western Cape development organisation Wesgro will act as a research partner to the NBI. Their analysis will locate FET provision in the context of current and future skill supply needs and the demands of the Western Cape economy.

At the launch of the situational analysis, Brian O'Connell, superintendent-general of the Western Cape Education department, stressed the importance of FET institutions. He warned that the success or failure of the FET sector would have decisive effects on the province's future.

He urged participants in the analysis, as professionals, to "take back the control of their institutions" and become "joint partners in the enterprise of revising FET".

The situational analysis will be funded by the Danish International Donor Agency. The seven-month study will culminate in a conference in August, as well as a report for the department with recommendations for the FET sector in the province.

CT 24/3/99

(54)

## Fort Hare senate registers 'no confidence' votes (54)

THE University of Fort Hare senate yesterday passed a "vote of no-confidence" in both the management and the university council.

Senate members, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the senate had passed another "vote of no confidence" in its two representatives on the council as they were not accountable to the senate.

The senate also rejected some recommendations in the independent assessor's report, including one to retain registrar Dr Isaac Mabindisa and deputy vice-chancellor and academic Professor Ntobeko Maqhashalala. However, the recommendation that vice-chancellor Professor Mbulelo Mzamane's contract not be renewed was supported.

The senate is composed of the deans of all faculties at the university, professors and heads of departments.

Other resolutions of yesterday's meeting will be tabled at a council meeting in Bisho today.

Independent assessor Professor Stuart Saunders' report on financial mismanagement at the university will be the only item on the agenda at the meeting.

Meanwhile, continued protests by students, workers and staff members on campus has meant lectures and work have been neglected since last week.

Despite statements by Mabindisa last week that university management was still "in charge" at the institution, it has not been business as usual at Fort Hare.

The university community has been barricading the main campus, preventing Mabindisa, Mzamane and Maqhashalala from entering the campus.

Fort Hare transformation forum chairman Mr Siyabonga Kobese said yesterday demonstrations would continue.

He said this was to "put more pressure" on the council for today's meeting. Lectures were suspended at the university after continued protest action by students, staff and academics since last week. - Sapa.

Sowetan 24/3/99

# Guard dies as robbers turn Wits into war zone

By GILL GIFFORD (74)  
Crime Reporter

The Wits University west campus was turned into a battle zone when armed robbers clashed with security guards during a robbery yesterday.

A security guard was killed, another injured and a robber wounded in the wild shootout, which took place in full view of students and staff. At least eight cars were badly damaged.

The drama started outside the Student Union Building at 11.45am when four guards from Khulani Springbok Patrols made a scheduled collection stop.

Inspector Mark Reynolds, police spokesperson for Johannesburg, said two guards entered the building while two remained in the armoured van, loaded with cash containers.

"The two guards returned to the van and were loading up when four robbers held them up. There was an exchange of

gunfire and two of the robbers pushed the guards into the back of the van and jumped in as the driver headed up the hill."

Shots were fired in the back of the van. One guard was shot in the hand. A robber opened the porthole and shot the driver, who lost control of the van. It collided with several parked cars. The driver died behind the wheel and his three colleagues were pulled out by the robbers.

The two other robbers arrived within seconds. One of them, armed with an AK-47 assault rifle, stood guard while his accomplices removed the money.

Wahl Bartmann, managing director of Khulani Springbok, last night estimated the loss at between R60 000 and R70 000. Clearly upset, he said: "These guys go to any extent to get the money. Killing, wounding, burning people ... we don't know where it's going to stop."

Bartmann said a substantial reward would be given for assistance leading to an arrest.



Victim ... the driver of an armoured van lies dead behind the wheel after a shootout during a violent heist at Wits University yesterday.

DEBBIE YAZBEK



# Guard dies in robbery on Wits (54) campus

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

ARC 27/13/99  
Johannesburg - The Wits University west campus was turned into a battle zone when armed robbers clashed with security guards during a cash-in-transit robbery.

A security guard was killed, another injured and a robber wounded in the wild shootout, which yesterday took place in broad daylight in full view of students and staff. At least eight cars were badly damaged.

The drama started outside the Student Union Building at 11.45am when four armed guards from Khulani Springbok-Patrols made a scheduled collection stop at the Braamfontein campus on a cash collection route.

Inspector Mark Reynolds, police spokesperson for Johannesburg, said two guards entered the building while two remained in the armoured van which was loaded with cash containers.

"The two guards returned to the van and were loading up when four robbers held them up. There was an exchange of gunfire and two of the robbers pushed the guards into the back of the van and jumped in as the driver headed up the hill," he said.

The two robbers in the back of the van started assaulting the two security guards, and shots were fired. During the scuffle, in which one guard was shot in the hand, one of the robbers opened the porthole into the front compartment and shot the driver who lost control of the van.

The cash van swerved into several cars parked on the campus before colliding with a vehicle parked almost 200 metres up the road. The driver died behind the wheel and his three colleagues were pulled out by the robbers.

The two robbers who had remained behind at the Student Union Building arrived within seconds. One of them stood guard while his accomplices worked on security devices on the van to remove the money.

The men escaped in a red Colt bakkie and a white BMW.

# New Vaal rector brings hope of restored calm

Primarashni Pillay

(54)

BD 25/3/99

STABILITY could return to the trouble-plagued Vaal Triangle Technikon with the appointment of retired rector Theodore Shippey as the interim CEO who will oversee the appointment of a new technikon council and rector.

Shippey, who was the rector of Cape Technikon until 1997, will take up his position next month.

His appointment is in line with recommendations by Jaap Durand, appointed last year by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to investigate problems at the technikon.

The campus has been beset by problems since the suspension of former rector Aubrey Mokadi in 1997. The technikon council dismissed him in November last year on the grounds of misconduct.

The council appointed former University of Venda deputy vice-chancellor of administration, Ngoro Vera, as the interim caretaker/manager early this year, but his contract was not renewed after a month.

The council viewed Vera as an adviser to management, but the education department saw him as the interim manager until a new rector was appointed, a department source said.

Shippey was the "perfect person for the job as he has experience in technikon management and higher education". The present council would have to dissolve and Shippey would have to oversee nominations for a new council, which would have the confidence of education stakeholders. There was a need for confidence in the new council and rector, the source said.

1/12/99

Thursday March 25 1999 SOWETAN

# Fort Hare rector's 'democracy' appeal

*Sowetan 25/3/99 (54)*

By Saint Molakeng

THE ongoing crisis at the University of Fort Hare demonstrated disregard for the constitutional ethos and the good governance of the institution's community, vice-chancellor and rector Professor Mbulelo Mzamane said yesterday.

Mzamane was responding to the suspension of lectures at the Alice, Eastern Cape, university after continuing protests by students, staff and workers since last week.

They have been barricading the main campus, preventing Mzamane, registrar Dr Isaac Mabindisa and deputy vice-chancellor Professor Ntobeko Maqhashalala from entering the premises.

"The attempt by demonstrators to take the law into their own hands has been sad as it started on the evening of Human Rights Day," Mzamane said.

"The university community started

from a verdict of guilty, which was a manifestation of a kangaroo court. That showed that we have not yet succeeded in instilling a new democratic ethos and entrenching a human rights culture which upholds the rule of law and the sanctity of the Constitution."

Mzamane added that his detractors were not democrats but demagogues who fostered a culture of intolerance. "Declaring others guilty before they are properly found to be so, deprives them of their constitutional rights - which include the right to work."

However, the Fort Hare senate earlier this week passed a "vote of no confidence" in both the university management and council. It further supported independent assessor Professor Stuart Saunders' recommendations that Mzamane's contract not be renewed.

The senate differed with Saunders' recommendation that Mabindisa and Maqhashalala be retained by the university.

# Fort Hare council purges Mzamane, his lieutenants

THE University of Fort Hare council has purged top management of the university, kicking out vice-chancellor Professor Mbulelo Mzamane, deputy vice-chancellor Professor Ntobeko Maqhashalala and registrar Dr Isaac Mabindisa.

After a marathon nine-hour session at the university's campus in Bisho, council chairman Professor Francis Wilson told the media that the information in respect of the top managers provided by a council committee report was sufficient to justify further investigations.

Flanked by executive council members, he said this investigation would take place through the audit process set in motion by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu.

He said the council had resolved

that pending further investigations, and in the "interests of the University of Fort Hare", the three academics be asked to take six months leave with immediate effect with full benefits.

The council was called in response to the issuing of an independent assessor's report into financial mismanagement at the university.

Wilson said task forces would be set up which would address issues of governance, academic restructuring and finances. He said an urgent meeting of the senate had been requested and would take place on Monday to consider the interim management structure.

In reply to questions, Wilson said the general consensus on the interim management committee was that "we will look everywhere and find the most

competent people".

The announcement means that the recommendations by independent assessor Professor Stuart Saunders that the interim management consist of a troika including Mabindisa has been rejected by the council.

Wilson said the university was looking at a "systems failure". A way would have to be found to make sure the academic year was completed and exams were written. "That is the bottom line."

He said they would sit through the night in order to formulate a response to the Minister in "the next day or two".

Broad transformation forum spokesman Mr Siyabonga Kobesa said: "We welcome the decision that the three managers are on leave and that there will be an investigation." - *Ec na*

*South African 26/3/99*

Poor academic results at universities and technikons blamed on a lack of funds, 'racist' lecturers - and 'partying'. **Moses Mthethelleli Mackay** reports

# A tough struggle for students

**S**tudents from disadvantaged backgrounds are struggling to cope at universities and technikons in the Western Cape.

Some of them admit they are more interested in partying than studying.

But their poor academic performance has also been ascribed to a lack of funds, which demotivates students who also suffer from an inadequate school education.

The students also blame "racist" lecturers for failing them. They say they are victimised by some departments.

Mongameli Tsholwana, a final-year education student at the University of the Western Cape, said: "The failure rate is high, especially among first-year students, because they lack career guidance and they did not get proper training at high schools."

"Lack of funds to pay their fees mainly contributes to this problem."

He said some students failed because they were not serious about their academic work.

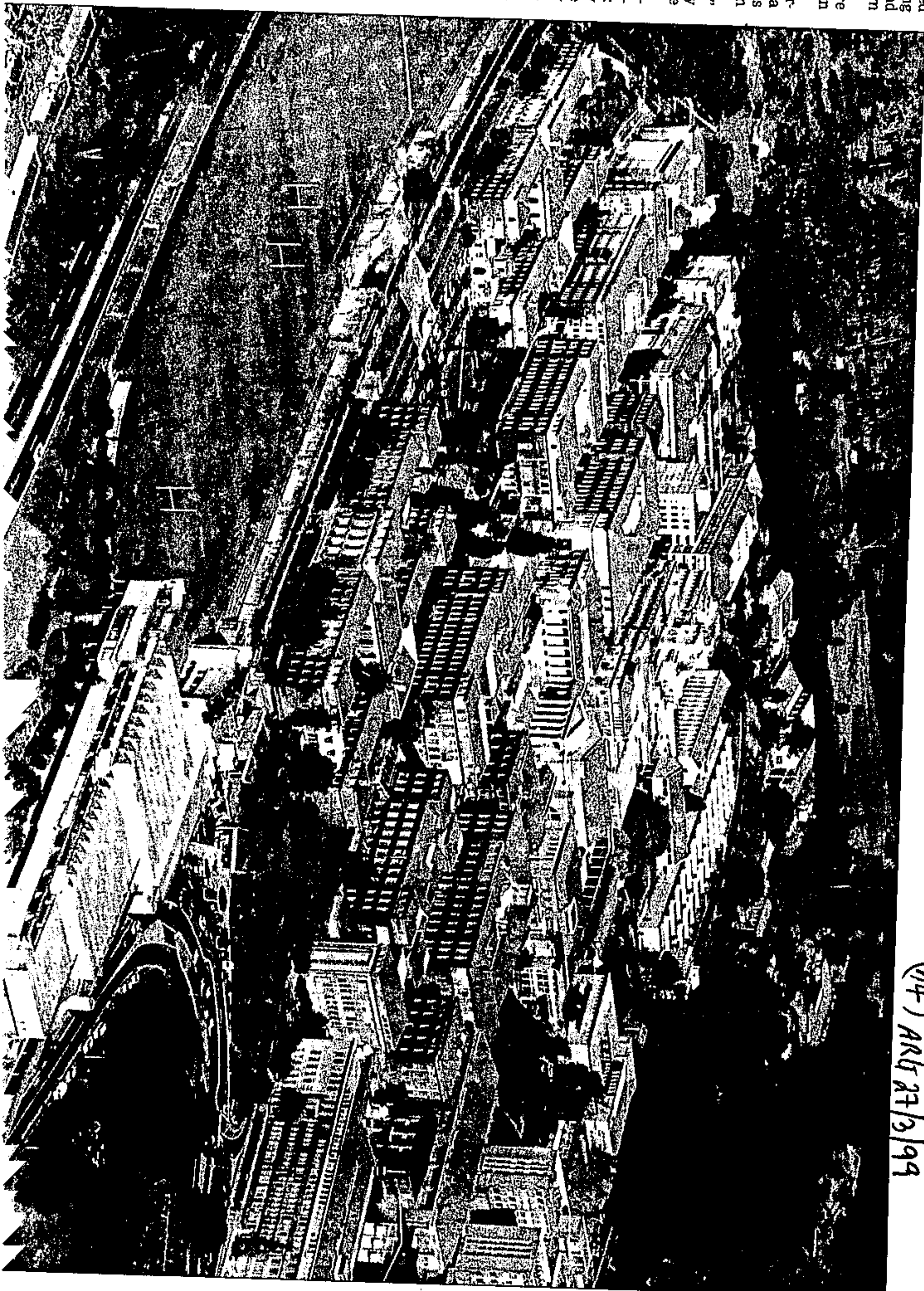
Mr Tsholwana said since he started his course at the university in 1992, the failure rate had been on the increase. He said the failure rate was between 65% and 70% a year.

The university has not responded to his claims.

"Many students discontinue their studies due to a lack of funds and return to the university two or three years later when they have raised what they owe the university," Mr Tsholwana said.

Senior UWC students, who asked not to be named, said most first-year students failed because they chose subjects unrelated to their career paths, causing them to change their courses every year.

Peninsula Technikon students said the business school had a particularly high failure rate because students were too relaxed and took things easy.



(714) ART 27/3/99

ments ran special mentorship support programmes to help students with writing and presentation skills throughout the year. He said the technikon also gave its students the opportunity to become computer literate.

Mr Abraham said academics such as technikon vice-chancellor Brian Figaji regularly told students to take responsibility for their studies.

Hans-Peter Bakker, the head of communication at Stellenbosch University, said defining "failure" was a complex issue.

Many students changed courses or broke their studies. "We cannot say they have failed because of these reasons."

He said that in the 1990s the subject pass rate at the university was more than 80%.

Niek Kok, senior vice-rector at Cape Technikon, said the pass rate was about 73% a year from 1996 to 1998.

He said students had access to specialised support services, including medical help, an intensive academic support programme, sports and social clubs, tutor services in which senior students assisted juniors in their studies, financial aid and accommodation if they qualified.

They acquired the necessary academic skills to do research, write projects and sharpen reading, writing and analytical expertise, he said.

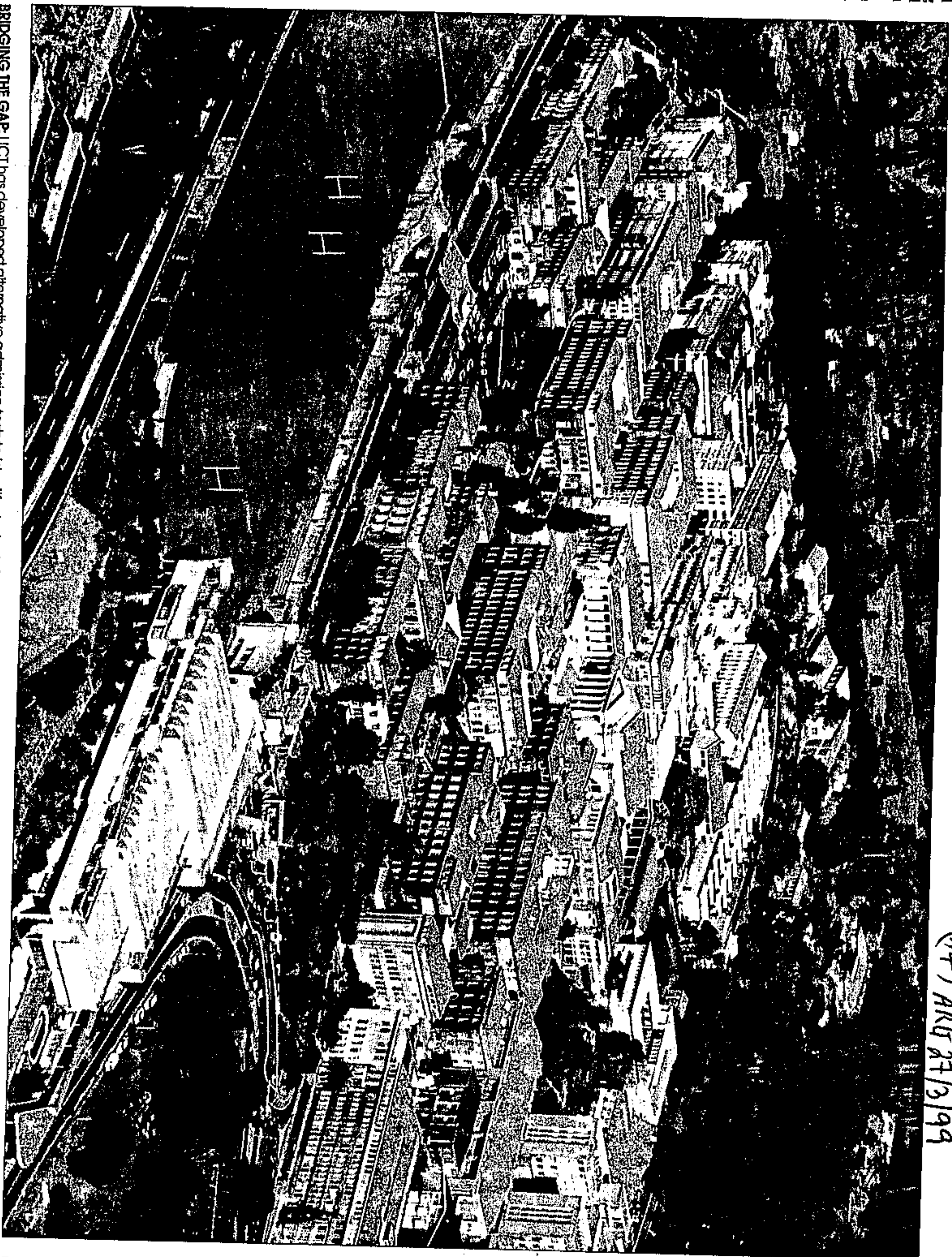
Helen Zille, the director of communication at the University of Cape Town, said 447 students were refused re-admission on academic grounds in 1995. That figure rose to 523 in 1996 and 604 in 1997.

She did not supply figures for 1998 and this year.

Ms Zille said the university had developed alternative admission tests to identify students from disadvantaged educational back-

# A tough struggle for students

(71) AR4 27/3/99



Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are struggling to cope at universities and technikons in the Western Cape.

Some of them admit they are more interested in partying than studying.

But their poor academic performance has also been ascribed to a lack of funds, which demotivates students who also suffer from an inadequate school education.

The students also blame "racist" lecturers for failing them. They say they are victimised by some departments.

Mongameli Tsholwana, a final-year education student at the University of the Western Cape, said: "The failure rate is high, especially among first-year students, because they lack career guidance and they did not get proper training at high schools.

"Lack of funds to pay their fees mainly contributes to this problem."

He said some students failed because they were not serious about their academic work.

Mr Tsholwana said since he started his course at the university in 1992, the failure rate had been on the increase. He said the failure rate was between 65% and 70% a year.

The university has not responded to his claims.

"Many students discontinue their studies due to a lack of funds and return to the university two or three years later when they have raised what they owe the university," Mr Tsholwana said.

Senior UWC students, who asked not to be named, said most first-year students failed because they chose subjects unrelated to their career paths, causing them to change their courses every year.

Peninsula Technikon students said the business school had a particularly high failure rate because students were too relaxed and took things easy.

Yusuf Abrahams, the head of the public affairs and development department at Pentech, confirmed the business school had a high failure rate in the past.

He said lecturers tended to finish at lunchtime, so students did not concentrate on their studies in the afternoon.

However, he said the pass rate

BRIDGING THE GAP: UCT has developed alternative admission tests to identify students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed at university

had improved to 52% in 1997 and 63% last year.

Mr Abrahams said many students failed because of their disadvantaged backgrounds.

He said students should not

blame the technikon for the failure rate because facilities like the library stayed open until 10pm during exams.

Referring to the preference of many students to go partying with

their friends rather than study alone, he said many students could not handle peer pressure and, therefore, did not perform well.

Mr Abrahams said the business faculty had started a number of in-

itiatives to help students, such as tutorials, detailed orientation programmes and month-long skills development programmes involving staff and students.

"We have an open-access policy

and students who can't get to other institutions come to this technikon.

"Most students come from a disadvantaged background."

He said several Pentech depart-

ments ran special mentorship support programmes to help students with writing and presentation skills throughout the year.

He said the technikon also gave its students the opportunity to become computer literate.

Mr Abrahams said academics such as technikon vice-chancellor Brian Figaji regularly told students to take responsibility for their studies.

Hans-Peter Bakker, the head of communication at Stellenbosch University, said defining "failure" was a complex issue.

Many students changed courses or broke their studies. "We cannot say they have failed because of these reasons."

He said that in the 1990s the subject pass rate at the university was more than 80%.

Nick Kok, senior vice-rector at Cape Technikon, said the pass rate was about 73% a year from 1996 to 1998.

He said students had access to specialised support services, including medical help, an intensive academic support programme, sports and social clubs, tutor services in which senior students assisted juniors in their studies, financial aid and accommodation if they qualified.

They acquired the necessary academic skills to do research, write projects and sharpen reading, writing and analytical expertise, he said.

Helen Zille, the director of communication at the University of Cape Town, said 447 students were refused re-admission on academic grounds in 1995. That figure rose to 523 in 1996 and 604 in 1997.

She did not supply figures for 1998 and this year.

Ms Zille said the university had developed alternative admission tests to identify students from disadvantaged educational backgrounds who had the potential to succeed at university.

She said programmes had been developed to bridge the gap between school and university and to equip students with academic skills, such as critical reasoning, that were fundamental to academic success.

Ms Zille said the university's career office offered students advice to complement their studies and motivate them.

# Black students march to Pretoria

CORNIA PRETORIUS reports on how higher institutions are coping (54) ST 28/3/99

WHEN Karla van de Vyver, 19, decided to study medicine, she narrowed her choice of universities to Pretoria and Stellenbosch. Because she wanted to be close to her parents in Johannesburg, she chose Pretoria. Although she was educated at one of Johannesburg's top private schools, she says she didn't even consider the University of the Witwatersrand.

"In my circle of friends only five people chose to go to Wits. The rest of them went to RAU. Wits seems to be going down. No one wants to go there anymore," says Van de Vyver. The rise in the popularity of Pretoria has been caused by a shift in what people want from higher learning institutions. Instead of marketing themselves as transforming institutions, many universities are hitting on stability as a selling point, and it is Afrikaans institutions that are increasingly perceived as offering value for money.

The University of Pretoria is no different to English universities in terms of its mixed student population. But, black students say there is still a strong conservative element. For the second year running, the Freedom Front won elections for the student representative council, which were fought along party lines. "When a black student moves onto a floor in a residence, white students move out," says a final-year BA student. He enrolled at Pretoria because it is close to his family home in Hammanskraal, north of the city. But he may have chosen it anyway, despite his qualms about its character.

"All in all, Pretoria has excellent facilities. It offers a high standard of education. Its library must be one of the best in the country and when you have to get a job, employers accept your degree more readily than those from black institutions — especially around Pretoria, where most big companies are owned by former Pretoria students," he says. On its web site the university boasts about its beautiful campus with modern facilities, a wide variety of courses — many of them unique — international recognition, 24-hour study facilities, a modern student centre and an exciting student life. A change in the language policy — Afrikaans and English are now mediums of instruction — has made this formerly conservative institution more accessible.

country's educational needs. The introduction of a tele-matic learning system (integrating interactive multimedia, the Internet, correspondence and contact teaching) is aimed primarily at working people who can only study off-campus. Vice-chancellor Johan van Zyl wants Pretoria to provide top-quality education. Degrees have to be internationally competitive

*Instead of marketing themselves as places of transformation, many universities are using stability as a selling point*



CONSERVATIVE BUT STABLE: Pretoria offers well-recognised qualifications

Pictures: JULANI VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

situation in a visible way. It is the traditionally black and English liberal institutions that are now struggling. Figures released by the national Department of Education last week show that numbers at English institutions have stabilised, but those at black universities are declining.

Ten years ago distinct language, cultural and political identities dictated that students opt for one of three types of institutions: white Afrikaans, liberal English or black universities and technikons. With the blurring of the boundaries, Afrikaans institutions have been the biggest beneficiaries. Black students at universities have increased from 5 000 in 1993 to 65 000, especially through part-time distance learning programmes.

Stellenbosch University is the only institution still seen as being "illy white" and promoting itself as an Afrikaans institution. Through the quality of many programmes is being questioned, the rapid response of many Afrikaans institutions to



BRAVE NEW WORLD: At the once illy-white Pretoria University, the number of black students has hit 8 000

the country's needs reflects a more pragmatic approach, whereas English institutions, in comparison, have a stronger tradition of intellectual critique and are not geared for action. Afrikaans institutions supported the apartheid government and trained its leaders. They understand the state as a

partner better than the English institutions, which used to be in opposition to the government. Universities are losing ground to technikons, where enrolment is growing. According to projections, 38 percent of all students will study at technikons in 2001. Seven years ago only 29 percent chose technikons. It is also ex-

## Wits says it's still top of the heap

UNDERGRADUATE numbers at the University of the Witwatersrand peaked in 1989 at 14 109 and declined during a "white flight" that ended about four years ago. Numbers have since stabilised at about 11 600.

Judging by its first-year intake, Wits is not affected by the perception that it is no longer providing quality education.

Dr Derek Swemmer, the registrar, says the university's first-year intake has been steady for the past three years.

Last year Wits had 3 228 first-years. This year enrolment is down by 2.1 percent. Despite the fact that in 1989 Wits had 4 670 new students, the university doesn't see the drop as dramatic, given that the national matriculant pool shrank by a quarter between 1994 and 1997.

Its real losses are suffered from the second year onwards, when many students don't return. A survey on why students fail to return reveals financial reasons as a major cause.

Other reasons given are that the university doesn't suit some students; others want to work before continuing their studies, and some leave the country.

Vice-chancellor Professor Colin Bundy says academics are speculating about the decline in student numbers. They blame financial pressures on students, and on the fact that some are undertaking vocational education linked to the job market.

Wits came out tops in a recent survey by the Professional Management Review, which asked 300 employers which institution offered the best BCom, BSc, BA and engineering degrees.

The Wits web site also makes it clear that it is still a highly regarded institution. All nine of its undergraduate engineering degrees have international accreditation, its business school was rated the best in the country for the third year running, and contrary to popular belief, its medical degrees are still internationally recognised.

Marvin Toko, a student, blamed the misconception that Wits was no longer a top university on its mixed campus. "People think that if more black students arrive, standards drop."

# 'Access school' a bridge to campus

BD 30/7/99 (54)

**Primarashni Pillay**

MORE black people could gain access to universities with the establishment by the University of SA (Unisa) of an "access school" to assist students without university entrance passes.

Plans to establish the school next year were announced by Prof Antony Melck, who was installed yesterday as the university's new principal at a ceremony attended by President Nelson Mandela.

Unisa currently offers access or bridging courses to students who do not have a matriculation exemption. However, the courses are not co-ordinated, said Prof Themba Msimang, acting registrar of the university's academic affairs.

He said the access school would mean the introduction of more bridging courses. Also, the pre-entry access examinations which were introduced about three years ago for students with poor matric passes would be phased out. The courses would cost the same as normal academic courses, which are about R840.

Already some of the existing bridging courses stretch

beyond the school curriculum and, depending on their quality and level, could be converted into degree credits.

Msimang said following government's encouragement that Unisa should become more accessible to students, it was concerned about the quality of education among previously disadvantaged people.

He said the setting up of such a school would not provide a "catchment" of prospective Unisa students, but would help boost student numbers at other universities as well.

Unisa also intended assisting students from the Southern African Development Community by offering bridging courses which would upgrade their O-level passes, (which is the equivalent of a standard eight pass in SA), to an A-level university entrance pass.

Melck stressed that the courses would be of high quality. Private finishing schools currently offer whole matric courses or partial courses. However, there is concern that some could be fly-by-night institutions that are not registered with provincial education departments and that the quality of courses might not be on a par with those of recognised schools.



# Cutting universities down to size

The strategic merger of SA's tertiary institutions is critical to the transformation of higher education, argue Adam Habib and Angina Parekh

(54) 08 31/3/99

**N**INE years ago, in his inaugural address to the University of Durban-Westville, Professor Jairam Reddy articulated a vision for a single institution, multicampus university for the KwaZulu-Natal region. This was the first time a senior manager of a higher education institution publicly expressed support for the idea of merging universities.

Seven years later the idea was encapsulated as a goal in the new legislation on higher education in SA. Yet, despite this official endorsement of that vision, SA's universities are today no closer to mergers than when Reddy first mooted the idea.

In an era where cost-cutting is the norm and mergers the rave, why is it that the higher education sector has been left untouched? Despite all the obvious political, financial and academic benefits, and government's commitment to merging higher education institutions, why have universities not moved any closer to this goal? Three factors must feature prominently in any answer.

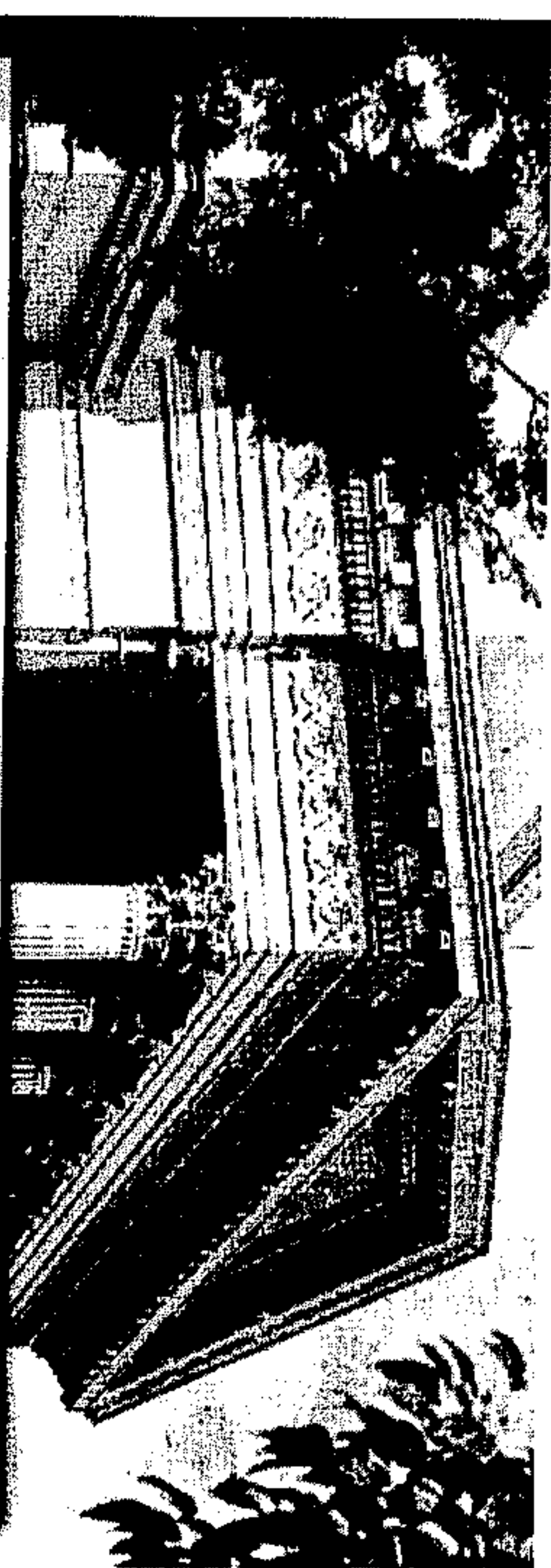
First and predictably of course, there is significant opposition to this among the universities. The prevailing opinion by management and academic staff at historically white universities is that mergers with historically black institutions will lead to a decline in academic standards.

Historically black universities, on the other hand, fear that institutional mergers would lead to a loss of their identity and would compromise the goal of transformation, and in particular the achievement of staff and student equity. The binary opposition between equity and quality is of course unnecessary. Both are required, and can be simultaneously achieved, if the transformation of higher education is to succeed.

One of the biggest myths of the South African higher education system is that historically white institutions are the repositories of academic quality. These institutions have looked good only when compared with their black counterparts. And this, of course, should not be surprising given the institutional disadvantage that the latter have been subjected to since their establishment.

When historically white institutions are compared with their counterparts elsewhere in the world they fall far short of being world-class institutions. As indicated in a recent Sunday Times survey on higher education in SA, academic productivity (both in terms of teaching and research) are relatively low by world standards.

In the new millennium, SA's universities are not going to have to compete with one another, but rather with an increasing number of private (local and foreign) institutions



SA's Universities		
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b> University of Durban-Westville University of Natal (Durban and Maritzburg) University of Zululand	<b>Western Cape</b> University of Cape Town University of Western Cape University of Stellenbosch	<b>North West Province</b> University of the North West Potchefstroom University
<b>Gauteng</b> Rand Afrikaans University University of Witwatersrand (Johannesburg) University of Pretoria Medical University of SA Unisa (Pretoria) Vista	<b>Free State</b> University of Free State <b>Eastern Cape</b> Rhodes University University of Fort Hare University of Port Elizabeth University of Transkei	<b>Northern Province</b> University of the North University of Venda

KUBEN DAVID

that are offering programmes in the country. In preparing for this new competition, higher education institutions should be careful of falling into a trap of developing simple notions of quality. Left on their own, historically white institutions are incapable of representing SA, not only because they represent a small sector of the population, but because they will be poor academic players in the global environment.

To be truly representative, public higher education institutions will need to reflect goals of both equity and enhanced quality. This requires disaggregating institutions, taking the best from each, and developing

new institutions that are not only reflective of demographics but are also capable of being quality academic players in a highly competitive environment.

Second, the failure to realise that institutional mergers can be attributed to the state's reluctance to set the agenda in this regard. To date the state has neither set time frames nor imposed financial penalties on institutions that have failed to demonstrate significant progress towards achieving institutional mergers. The result is that most institutions assume that the state is not serious about institutional mergers and hence pay lip service to the idea.

This then takes us to the third issue, namely, the mechanisms that have been established to achieve institutional mergers. To date progress on institutional mergers has been measured by the activities of regional consortiums. Such consortiums are usually made up of all higher education institutions in the region and have as their aim the facilitation of interinstitutional co-operation and mergers. But is this feasible? Although regional consortiums might be seen as the politically correct vehicle to achieve institutional mergers, they have not made progress in this regard. While some, like the Eastern Seaboard Association of Ter-

tiary institutions, have established innovative projects like the Regional Access Programme, the Central Applications Office and the Tourism Research Network. These are add-on projects that do not alter the existing programmes and activities of higher education institutions in the region.

In terms of its mandate, namely to facilitate co-operation among institutions on existing programmes, to eliminate academic and administrative duplication, and to facilitate a process towards a single institution, the Eastern Seaboard Association of Tertiary Institutions' record is questionable.

Perhaps it is unfair to expect this body or any other regional consortium to facilitate such a process. First, as a creation of higher education institutions, regional consortiums do not have the authority to bind higher education managers, who are notoriously defensive of their turf.

Second, regional consortiums have too many players around the table, which although useful for legitimacy, make co-operation and mergers almost impossible. Third, they have become bureaucratic in their own right and competitors for resources with other higher education institutions. Thus, although regional consortiums are publicly supported by higher education managers, they are treated with suspicion by the very institutions who created them.

Clearly co-operation over existing programmes and/or mergers is not going to be facilitated by regional consortiums. Indeed, they detract from this process, creating an avenue which enables the uncommitted to stall the process. What is required is direct negotiations among the vice-chancellors and their representatives.

This process could be assisted by an interventionist ministry that uses its financial muscle as leverage to compel institutions to consider strategic mergers seriously. It could for instance develop time frames by which institutions must develop plans and implement them. Failure to comply could lead to financial penalties and/or the imposition of restructuring plans by the ministry.

Given its limited resources, SA can ill-afford to maintain institutions within close proximity to one another, which duplicates a wide range of programmes and disciplines. Is it not time to stop allowing the principle of university autonomy from being used as an excuse to stall the process of transforming higher education and developing representative and world-class universities?

— Habib and Parekh are academic staff from the University of Durban-Westville in KwaZulu-Natal.

# Nehawu threatens strike by 220 000

CT (BR) 31/3/99

(54)

FRANK NXUMALO

LABOUR EDITOR

Johannesburg — The national executive council of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) threatened yesterday to go on a national solidarity strike involving more than 220 000 members on April 28 if there was no settlement to its dispute with the tertiary education sector.

In the last reconciliation meeting of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac), Nehawu proposed a sectoral job summit to deal with transformation issues and potential retrenchments that hit more than 30 000 in the sector.

"The council noted the urgent need to speed up the transformation process within the tertiary education institutions," said

Makoko Lekola, Nehawu's spokesman. "Further, they raised their dissatisfaction in regard to delaying tactics applied by the tertiary education management at a recent Nedlac meeting.

"National office bearers had also been mandated to engage again in talks with Nedlac (to resolve) issues that still prevail at the tertiary institutions."

On public sector wage negotiations, Nehawu said it had "noted with dismay the breakdown of wage negotiations" and had mandated its national office bearers to speed-up the process of finding a solution to the deadlock.

Wage negotiations talks deadlocked at the public service bargaining co-ordinating council last week after it walked out because the government would not move beyond the R3 billion budgeted for civil wages.

# UCT staff, students insured against HIV

DI CAELERS

HEALTH WRITER

ARG 31/3/99

University of Cape Town staff and students who are at risk of contracting HIV or other blood-borne diseases as a result of their work, are now protected by a special policy that includes early prophylactic treatment with drugs.

The university has approved the policy, which lays out a specific plan of action that must be followed in the event of exposure to blood or blood-stained fluids, in direct response to the growing number of HIV-positive people and AIDS patients in South Africa.

According to the university's publication, Monday Paper, last year 282 staff members and students, who had been exposed to blood or blood-stained body fluids, were treated at Groote Schuur Hospital's occupational health clinic.

Sue Key, UCT's occupational health nurse and a member of the working group that took nearly a year to draw up the new policy, told Monday Paper it had been almost a decade since the beginning of HIV/AIDS, and that the long, invisible stage of the epidemic was drawing to a close.

The policy specifies a course of action that must be followed in the event of exposure to blood or blood-stained fluids. Staff and students are covered during work they do for any UCT course and when doing voluntary work under the auspices of the university.

The policy is in line with international practice and includes that affected people get HIV prophylactic treatment, in the form of AZT and 3TC drugs, within six hours of the incident.

# Declining numbers at most campuses

BY EDWIN NAIDU

Midrand University, north of Johannesburg, is successfully wooing potential learners, and its partner in education provision, the Educor group, is winning the battle for student numbers as tertiary institution's numbers continue to decline.

Midrand University, previously Midrand Campus, has around 3 000 students, while its Johannesburg Stock Exchange listed subsidiary, Educor, has become the country's largest provider of private education - about 350 000 students attended various education programmes run by Educor last year.

The campus, situated in Glen Austin, offers a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees accredited by British, American and South African institutions.

Their business school in Milpark also offers programmes for corporates, including Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration degrees.

Universities and technikons are still finalising current registration figures but according to the national department of education, many institutions showed a decline in 1998 from the previous year.

University of Witwatersrand had 16 916 students last year, compared with 17 013 in 1996, the Rand Afrikaans University was down to 22 011 from 23 199 and even numbers at the University of South Africa dropped from 126 344 in 1997 to 113 501 last year. Historically disadvantaged universities, including Fort Hare with 3 490, down from 4 376 in 1997, the North 10 607 as opposed to 14 435, Transkei 5 656, from 6 687 and Venda 5 737, down from 6 450 the previous year.

The majority of the country's technikon's recorded increases in student numbers last year, with Technikon South Africa leading the way with

125 628 learners, compared with 80 385 the previous year.

Several universities have already reported a drop in the number of students for 1999 but said they expected numbers to increase slightly when post-graduate applicants are finalised.

"South Africa needs as many quality higher education

institutions as possible to realise the potential of all its learners," said Midrand's director of studies Susan Bedil.

She said South Africans will have access to learning opportunities only through sustained partnership between Government and the private sector.

"Our university provides academically sound, quality education in a environment that is conducive to study. We have an important role to play equipping our country's intellectual capital with the learning and skills necessary for participation in the economic, social and

cultural development," she said.

Another reason for the declining numbers at universities, cited by Bheki Khumalo, spokesperson for Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu was the constant troubles which make campuses unfriendly to learners.

Bengu told Parliament recently there was a leadership crisis and lack of confidence at several campuses, forcing him to appoint independent assessors to probe three institutions and conduct forensic audits into a further six institutions.

He said his ministry, in association with the Department of Finance, was carrying out a review of the higher education sector under the medium term expenditure framework, and will introduce a new funding scheme next year.

The scheme aims to ensure that education institutions are more accountable for the use of public funds and the needs of society, and function on the basis of partnership with government and civil society.

## Scheme to promote partnership

# Private colleges with miserable pass rates facing subsidy cuts

(54) Star 8/4/99

By Tefo MOTHIBELI  
Education Reporter

The Gauteng Department of Education will not back down on its threat to cut subsidies to underperforming private colleges.

Provincial Education MEC's spokesperson Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said in terms of the new Norms and Standards regulations, which come into effect next year, these institutions would have to achieve no less than 50% pass rate to keep enjoying government subsidies.

Sixty-nine of the provinces 300 private colleges performed dismally last year.

Among these are 28 which have been termed "the most worrying in the province as they have been consistently performing poorly over the past three years".

Sophistry Adult Centre (2,2% pass rate), Sheik Anta Diop (3,6%), Light Study Centre

(4,54%), Heartwood (5,4%), New Dawn College (5,94%), Simangaliso (6,08%), Babhekile (6,29%), Black Forest (8,18%), New World Learning Centre (9,09%), Beyhan College (11,2%), Grace College (11,92%) and Equity College

**One achieved 2,2% success, many others almost as bad**

(20,7%) are among those on which the axe may fall if they do not improve their performance.

These schools are concentrated in the Vaal Triangle, Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The Government offers private institutions financial assistance on differential levels and they could receive a subsidy of up

to R1 800 per pupil.

From next year the subsidisation of private schools would be based on equity and redress, and the poorest would receive the biggest subsidies.

The Government allocated R118-million for the funding of private schools for 1998/99 and 1999/2000 financial years.

Ratshitanga said these institutions had been warned of the new rules and when they are coming into play.

"We are saying this so they can improve their performance to protect their subsidies. We do not want it to come as a shock when we implement the new laws," he said.

Asked what sort of help the Government can offer students enrolled at institutions which may collapse as a result of a cut in the subsidy, he said: "We have not yet decided on what action to take at the moment."

## HIGHER EDUCATION

# CENTRAL ADMISSIONS PLAN TO SPREAD BURDEN

Moves afoot in two provinces, but some rectors strongly opposed

(54)

FM 9/4/99

Two provinces are looking to establish a central admissions system to streamline applications to universities and technikons, but some ANC politicians and black university rectors see it as a way to force institutions to enrol more disadvantaged students.

The Historically Black Universities' Forum and a camp within the Health Department have long favoured the idea of a common admissions policy that forces each university to enrol its fair share of disadvantaged students.

Last year, Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma declared her intention to pressure medical schools into applying racial quotas, and at recent hearings of parliament's health committee, chairman Abie Nkomo again raised the issue, asking medical deans their opinion on introducing a "co-ordinated admissions policy so that there's shared responsibility for admitting disadvantaged groups".

Transkei University's medical school dean, Prof Lizo Mazwai, welcomed the idea, as did Natal University's Prof Ahmed Simjee, saying: "If such a policy was adopted and it encouraged other universities who've dragged their heels (in enrolling disadvantaged students), then we'd support it."



Max Price . . . Wits won't allow a third party to determine its admissions criteria

### CENTRAL APPLICATIONS CENTRE

#### Key advantages:

- \* Only one application and one fee
- \* Reduction in universities' paperwork
- \* Better enrolment information allows universities to plan more accurately
- \* Improves the match between unplaced students and vacancies
- \* Also dispenses career guidance
- \* Admission criteria become explicit

#### Key disadvantages:

- \* Universities lose direct control over the admissions process
- \* Some fear it could open the way for State intervention

Fort Hare rector Prof Mbulelo Mzamane believes it is only fair that the best-resourced universities enrol more disadvantaged students than universities that are struggling to make ends meet.

"This would even things up a little and would be one way of meaningfully and seriously integrating the nation," he says.

University of Venda rector Prof Muxe Nkondo also believes the idea has merit. "It's unfair and not in the interests of equity to expect under-resourced universities to handle all the problems of access," he says. While conceding that such a policy will undermine universities' autonomy, he argues that "autonomy should serve the national need, which is access, equity and redress".

But Pretoria Medical School dean Prof Deon du Plessis is appalled by the notion. "If they're going to do that, then the autonomy of universities is under attack," he says. "This is still a democratic country and government shouldn't manipulate applications to force students to go to certain institutions."

Wits Medical School dean Prof Max Price says Wits is also opposed to a common admissions policy and will never allow a third party to determine its admissions criteria.

Stellenbosch University spokesman Hans-Peter Bakker says the competition between institutions for students and

funding ensures that they strive to provide the best education. This would be lost if students were centrally placed.

It would also be in conflict with the Higher Education Act, which allows each institution to determine its own admissions policy, taking into account the requirement of redressing past inequalities. The potential for a row between the Health and Education Departments on the issue could see it stall in the starting blocks.

The initiative's backers seem to suspect that some universities are racist in their failure to enrol more black students.

However, there has been a huge shift in the racial composition of university admissions

over the past five years — without any State intervention.

The number of Africans enrolled at the six historically African universities fell by about 10 000 (from a base of about 45 000) between 1993 and 1998, while the number of Africans attending the six Afrikaans universities increased from about 5 000 to 31 000, and by 8 000 from 10 000 at the four English-medium universities over the same period.

Overall, the number of Africans attending all SA's 21 universities has increased by about 25 000 from a base of 155 000, according to Prof Dave Cooper of the Education Policy Unit of the University of the Western Cape.

During this time, the number of white university and technikon students fell by almost 25 000 and 20 000 respectively.

University of Cape Town deputy director of academic development Nan Yeld says if students are forced to attend institutions they perceive as poorly managed and whose qualifications are not valued, it could result in the best students going overseas or to private institutions.

She argues that until adequate support is given to institutions to develop courses to meet the needs of disadvantaged students, it's unrealistic to expect them to be able to satisfy racial quotas. "This would mean access, yes, but also high failure and exclusion rates."

It is also unlikely to be a panacea for the problems of historically black universities, which are not merely related to admissions. This was underscored recently by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu when he accused historically black universities



Arnold Pronto

of using historical disadvantage to cloak financial mismanagement.

"Their fixation with historical disadvantage is blinding them to the real challenges they face as universities," he said, going on to question whether it was "morally justifiable to disburse massive amounts of taxpayers' money into a money shredder".

His outburst came after a probe into financial mismanagement at Fort Hare, which has resulted in the rector agreeing not to renew his contract.

But despite the misgivings of some rectors about a common admissions policy, institutions in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape and the Committee of Medical Deans are pursuing the idea.

KwaZulu-Natal's central applications office opens in April, modelled on those in the UK and Ireland. It will process applications for the six universities and technikons in the province as well as Unisa and Technikon SA.

The initiative has been developed and financed by the institutions themselves. The Education Department is closely observing the process, which it regards as a pilot project for a national system.

To apply to any or all six institutions, students need submit only one form at a cost of R85, instead of having to pay up to R75 for each institution they apply to. Students list their choice of courses and institutions. The office checks their academic qualifications against each institution's admission requirements and they are given their first choice where possible.

"It's one form, one fee and one computer system," says the executive officer, Dr Ann Knock. "We'll be able to identify the vacant places and unplaced students far better, and hope it will lead to a much better matching of institutions' and students' needs."

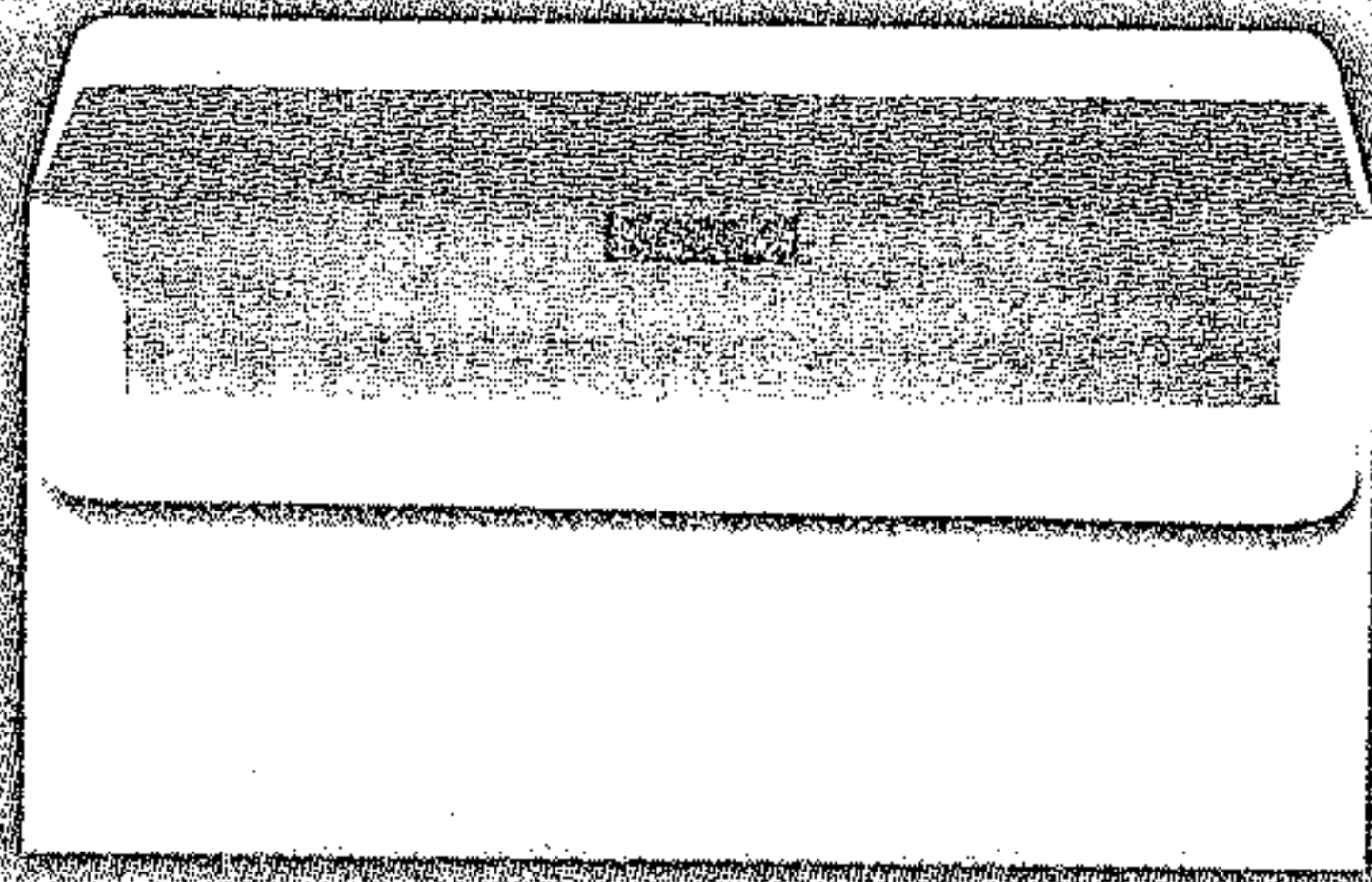
Claire Bissek



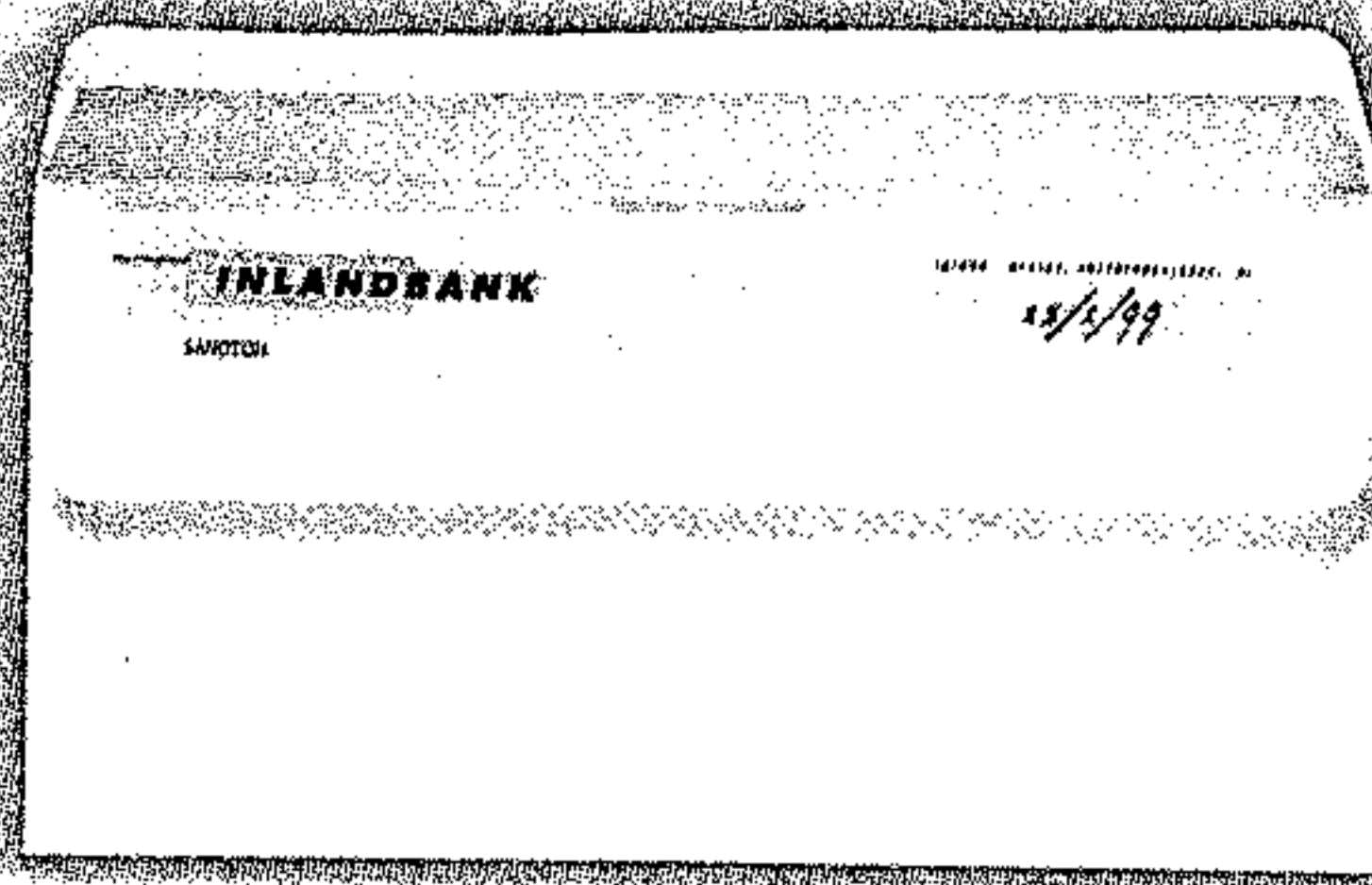
**Sibusiso Bengu . . . don't use historical disadvantage as cloak for mismanagement**

866/71DR/99

FINANCIAL



BEFORE



AFTER

Are you sure the cheque's in the mail? If not, try PAG. The Professional Assignments Group Financial Division specialises in finding the best permanent and temporary financial staff. We ensure, for example, that all our credit control candidates are thoroughly screened by consultants who are all ex credit

controllers themselves. This coupled with our personality and job skill tests allows us to send you fewer, **better people** suited to both the job and your company. So if you'd like to see your debtors ledger cleaned up sooner rather than later give Adele Oberholzer a call at PAG Financial on (011) 488-9884.



FINANCIAL

---

## Nehawu suspends call for action over retrenchments (54)

BD 9/4/99  
Primarashni Pillay

---

THE National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) suspended its call yesterday for protest action over the retrenchment of members who work as cleaning and security staff at tertiary education institutions.

Nehawu met with representatives of the tertiary education sector and the education department at a meeting co-ordinated by the National Economic, Development and Labour Council (Nedlac). It was decided that a meeting should be held next month on staff retrenchments. The meeting will be co-ordinated by the Council on Higher Education.

Following the restructuring and rationalisation of technikons and universities, the services of workers including caterers, cleaners and security guards are being outsourced. This resulted in 4 000 jobs being lost last year, while another 30 000 workers could still lose their jobs.

At yesterday's meeting it was decided that Nedlac should co-ordinate the appointment of a task team of representatives from each sector. The task team has to formulate an agenda for the planned meeting by the end of April.

---



# Former Mandela adviser to head Fort Hare

BD 9/4/99 (54)

**Primarashni Pillay**

PRESIDENTIAL adviser Prof Derrick Swartz has been appointed acting principal of troubled Fort Hare University for six months.

The appointment was made this week by the executive committee of the university's council. Former principal Prof Mbulelo Mzamane was suspended two weeks ago and his contract will not be renewed.

Mzamane's dismissal is in line with recommendations by Dr Stuart Saunders, who was appointed by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to investigate the institution's problems.

The university's projected overdraft for this year ending December is R52m and is expected to increase to R71m by the end of next year.

The university council has also suspended the deputy vice-chancellor of academic affairs Prof Ntobeko Maqashalala and the registrar Dr Isaac Mabindisa for six months for alleged mismanagement.

They are to be investigated by a committee which will be appointed soon by the council. Furthermore, top auditing company KPMG will also audit the university's books this month.

Siyabonga Gobese, chairman of the university's transformation forum said yesterday

that two people would be appointed to assist Swartz, also in a temporary capacity.

Swartz is the director of the university's Institute of Government, which offers management training for government officials. He was also on the Presidential Review Commission where he investigated the restructuring of the public service.

Gobese said: "He and the interim management will have to get new financial systems and policies in place."

"I will have to outline a clear deficit reduction and debt repayment strategy to lead Fort Hare out of financial difficulty," said Swartz.



WHEN YOU NEED HELP...WE'RE ALL THE HELP YOU NEED



# Identities of 'skilled' Ribeiro killers revealed

## The two assassins were flown in from former South West Africa

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — The identities of the two "Black Portuguese" Special Forces soldiers flown to Pretoria in a military aircraft to assassinate anti-apartheid activists Fabian Ribeiro and his wife Florence were revealed for the first time yesterday — almost 13 years after the killings.

SA Defence Force Special Force operative and former Selous Scout Noel Robey told the truth commission's amnesty committee that he had fetched the two "skilled killers" at Special Forces headquarters in June 1986.

"They introduced themselves as Jao Pinta and Ruiz da Silva," Robey testified. He did not know whether the men gave their real names.

After the "job" was carried out successfully, Robey returned the men to Special Forces headquarters. He never saw or heard of them again.

Robey is one of five former Special Force soldiers who applied for amnesty for the Ribeiro murders. The others are Special Forces commanding general Joep Joubert, Civil Co-operation Bureau chief Col Joe Verster, Comm Charl Naude and Coen Vlietstra.

Robey is the only applicant who could shed any light on the killers' identity and the only member of the special military unit involved in the planning and execution of the murders who saw the two men. The assassins were flown from Ondangwa in the

former South West Africa in a military transport plane at the request of Naude to Special Forces headquarters, who said he required the services of "two of the very best operatives who have driver's licences".

Robey told the committee that at their arrival, the two were given R2 000, set up in a Pretoria hotel and repeatedly shown the route to the Ribeiro home in Mamelodi, a township east of the city, to ensure they would find their way out after the killings.

On the day of the killings — four days after their arrival in Pretoria — the assassins were each given a Colt 45 revolver fitted with a silencer. "The two men arrived at the Ribeiro home, knocked on the door and gained access to the house. Dr Ribeiro and his wife started screaming when the two soldiers revealed their weapons and they started shooting. They saw them fall, and made their retreat," Robey testified.

The assassins "had a bit of difficulty" leaving the scene of the murder because people who heard the shots gathered and surrounded them, trying to prevent them from leaving. "They were forced to fire a few shots into the air to scare them away."

Robey was arrested for the murders a few days later because his Land Rover was spotted in the area. However, he told the committee, he was cleared of any blame or involvement in the murders at an inquest held later. The hearings continue today.

## Nehawu suspends call for action over retrenchments

Primarashni Pillay

THE National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) suspended its call yesterday for protest action over the retrenchment of members who work as cleaning and security staff at tertiary education institutions.

Nehawu met with representatives of the tertiary education sector and the education department at a meeting co-ordinated by the National Economic, Development and Labour Council (Nedlac). It was decided that a meeting should be held next month on staff retrenchments. The meeting will be co-ordinated by the Council on Higher Education.

Following the restructuring and rationalisation of technicians and universities, the services of workers including caterers, cleaners and security guards are being outsourced. This resulted in 4 000 jobs being lost last year, while another 30 000 workers could still lose their jobs.

At yesterday's meeting it was decided that Nedlac should co-ordinate the appointment of a task team of representatives from each sector. The task team has to formulate an agenda for the planned meeting by the end of April.

# Major upgrade for UCT campus

ET 9/4/99 (54)

IN A joint venture Group Five Building South is working with Makili Nyeka Construction on a major upgrade of the upper campus at the University of Cape Town.

The R40-million contract involves building a new six-storey students' union building as well as the conversion of the existing students union into libraries and offices. The contractors will also extend the Immelman building and refurbish parts of the interior, as well as renovate the interior of the Leslie commerce and Jagger buildings.

"This is a difficult and complex project," said Group Five Building South's contracts director, Keith Miller. "Our operations have to be planned to cause minimum disruption and restrict noise, dust and traffic congestion, which is no easy matter."

Unexpected problems are often discovered beneath the old structures being demolished and contingency plans must be in place to deal with any complications. Most of the work is due for completion in September and further work should keep the Group Five Building/Makili Nyeka joint venture on site until March 2000.

"So far we are on schedule and confident of keeping to the tight schedule," said Miller.

# UCT gets R9m cash injection — if it can raise R24m itself

**PRISCILLA SINGH**

THE University of Cape Town has been given a R9-million cash injection from the Kresge Foundation of Troy in Michigan, US, to help fund its upper campus project.

Called the Challenge Grant, it is the largest yet to be awarded by the Kresge Foundation to a university outside the US. It signalled a "strong vote of confidence for UCT's leadership, strategic plans and vision for the future", the university said.

The upper campus project entails upgrading

the main campus by remodelling facilities in the vicinity of Jameson Hall.

The terms of the Kresge Foundation's Challenge Grant state that, to receive the funding, UCT must raise the balance of the costs — about R24m — from donations by July 1 next year.

Foundation president John Marshall III said: "Our trustees were motivated not only by UCT's research leadership and its promotion of academic excellence and equity, but its responsible stewardship of resources and its commitment to expanding private philanthropy in South Africa."

"We hope this grant will assist UCT in fulfilling its strategic vision of assuring its future financial independence by fostering private support from its alumni and community."

The foundation has awarded 57 grants amounting to more than \$33m for 1999.

UCT vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphela emphasised the importance of the foundation's contribution and said it represented more than funds for capital building and endowment costs.

"It confers a seal of approval from one of the world's leading philanthropic organisations that

UCT is indeed a world-class player in higher education," Ramphela said. "We are grateful to the Kresge Foundation for this vote of confidence. The challenge will be a powerful incentive to raise the remaining R24m for this essential project."

Plans for the upper campus include improvements to the library, expansion of the Centre for Higher Education Development and a well-equipped Student Learning Centre.

The upper campus project also aims to provide more space for student governance and services and for the commerce and engineering faculties.

CT 12/4/99

(54)

# R7,2m awarded in SAIRR bursaries

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

THE South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), one of the oldest administrators of bursary schemes in the country, has awarded bursaries worth nearly R7,2 million this year.

This brings the amount allocated to SAIRR bursars since 1983/84 to R123,9m.

At least 761 bursaries were awarded this year. The figure represented a slight decline of 2,4% from last year's because of a reduction in foreign funding of such schemes.

SAIRR chief executive officer John Kane-Berman said on Friday that R7 185 198 has been awarded in bursaries this year.

He also said bursars had achieved an average pass rate of 87% in the past nine years, with a high of 92% in 1995 and a low of 82% in 1997. Last year, 85% of SAIRR bursars passed.

"Our students, as well as the counselling service and administrative support of the institute, all deserve rich praise for the high rate of success," Kane-Berman said.

The institute's bursary scheme has been operating since 1936. Its bursars include many notable South Africans in all fields, among them President Nelson Mandela.

Institute bursaries are administered on behalf of companies, trusts and overseas donors — the latter having given substantial sums of money for this purpose in the 1980s and 1990s.

Nearly one third (249) of this year's awards went to new bursars, with most (128) going to university students. As in previous years, students attending technikons (106), teacher training colleges (two), technical colleges (four), commercial colleges (three) and high schools (six) also received awards.

Of the 512 students who have been re-awarded institute bursaries

(54) ET 12/4/99  
this year, 173 are attending university, 92 technikons, eight teacher training colleges, six technical colleges, 19 commercial colleges and 214 high schools.

For several years, in choosing bursars, the SAIRR has tried to achieve a good spread across in all academic disciplines. It says this is reflected in the results for last year, when 155 bursars graduated: commerce (46), science (28), education (11), business administration (eight), engineering (15), health science (14), law (14), arts (11), medicine (five), architecture (two) and dentistry (one).

Since 1980, at least 2 128 students who graduated held SAIRR bursaries. The disciplines in which they qualified were science (355), education (329), arts (291), commerce (283), law (189), health science (177), medicine (159), business administration (155), engineering (136), dentistry (30) and architecture (24).

Besides its bursary scheme, the institute administers a post-graduate scholarship programme for Harvard University. Since the programme began in 1979, 116 awards have been made to students to study in a range of disciplines.

Many who have participated in this programme now occupy positions of leadership in South Africa. They include Judge Navi Pillay, Sam Mosikili of Eskom, Carl Lotter of the Department of Trade and Industry, Vincent Maphai of SA Breweries and Thami Mazwai of Penta Publications.

● The Damelin Management School is offering 100 employees of the South African Police Service (SAPS) the chance to enrol, free of charge, for one of its 64 part-time courses. The total value of the courses is about R250 000.

In addition to tuition, the offer covers the full cost of training materials and textbooks. SAPS employees across the country may enrol for a wide variety of courses.

# NEWS

*Agreement for a summit on restructuring of tertiary education holds off April 28 action*

## Nehawu suspends planned strike

FRANK NXUMALO

LABOUR EDITOR

Johannesburg - The National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) last week suspended a national strike planned for April 28 by more than 250 000 members in solidarity with 30 000 of their colleagues facing retrenchments in the tertiary education sector.

The suspension followed an agreement brokered by the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) between Nehawu and the

sector to hold a summit to discuss union concerns about the restructuring of these institutions.

Nedlac said a task team had been established.

It would identify additional agenda items for the summit, solicit views from those tertiary education institutions which were unable to send representatives to the meeting and propose a date for the summit.

"The first meeting of the task team will be convened by Nedlac. Thereafter, the Council for Higher Education will

take over responsibility for convening the summit, as this falls within the scope of their obligations in terms of the Higher Education Act 1997," said Jennifer Wilson, the spokesman for Nedlac.

"The task team will report to a committee of principals which will finalise the agenda and date for the summit."

Agenda items for the summit agreed already included the restructuring of the tertiary education system, the contracting out of services and discussions on the possible establishment of a

bargaining council for the sector.

Nehawu said it believed the summit should look at ways to arrest the mass retrenchments in the sector and find alternatives to the privatisation and outsourcing of services that were "being wantonly implemented by employers in the sector."

The union believed a joint framework of managing the restructuring and transformation processes in the tertiary education sector should be entered into by the summit, in place of unilateral action.

~~(54)~~ (54) CT (OR) 12/4/99

# University 'dealt with funds ineptly'

BD 14/4/99

Primarashni Pillay

(54)

THERE was "gross negligence" by the University of the North in dealing with funds of about R15,2m for the establishment of its commercial branch Edupark, a commission of inquiry into the university has disclosed.

The Mojapelo/Sithole commission was appointed a few months ago to investigate systems and operations at the university.

Part of the findings, which were released by the university yesterday, revealed that there was no contract record related to the loan by the university to Edupark. Edupark came into operation in 1996 in Pietersburg.

It comprises self-funded institutions which buy or lease property on the campus.

Some of the courses offered on the campus are formulated by the university.

Part of the understanding with government was that some of the profit generated by Edupark would be ploughed back into the university coffers, the university's assistant director of public affairs Nthambeleni Budeli said.

However, the commission found that the university did not entrench strict legal mechanisms to regain the owed money.

Budeli said the university had recognised this and "will relook at everything and tighten loopholes".

The commission in its recommendations said the university should restructure its relationship with Edupark in a legally binding manner.

The university should also make it clear to Edupark that the funds it had received were part of a loan that was payable with interest, the commission said.

The commission also found that there was an over-reliance on outside consultants by the university and recommended that this be reduced.

Instead, the university should develop its own staff.

Budeli said the Heath special investigating unit was also investigating the university and once the probe was completed it would be up to government to make the decision whether it was necessary for auditing firm Deloitte & Touche to intervene.

He also dispelled media reports that the university was close to bankruptcy.

"We are not in the red." Budeli could not reveal how much was outstanding in student fees but said the university would use "various reasonable" methods to collect the money owed the university.

DD security and the use by mines of  
investigating  
NUM general s  
the warned after

# When skills mean a job

(54) STAR 1

Tertiary education used to mean entry to the best careers: in South Africa, with massive unemployment at more modest levels. Barbara Watson reports on the roles of private universities, the State

JOHN

**A**s we hurtle toward the new millennium, people across the planet are waking up to the fact that they must equip themselves for the information age, or be left behind.

Economies are becoming truly global, creating an insatiable need for qualified, skilled labour to fuel the engine of growth. At the same time, there is an equally insatiable desire on the part of individuals to join the ranks of the middle-class. This has thus produced an unprecedented demand for higher education.

According to the February issue of *University Business* magazine, the World Bank predicts that more than 150 million people will seek higher education by the year 2025. In most countries other than the US, higher education has traditionally been provided by government institutions. But the demand explosion, coupled with political unrest in many developing countries, has greatly increased the need for credible private institutions.

Simply put, governments can no longer be expected to be the sole provider of education.

In recent years, South Africa has seen a proliferation of private education facilities rushing to fill the demands of a populace eager to increase skills and with them, marketability.

By the end of this year there will be less than 100 registered institutions. The number of unregistered ones is currently unknown and some could be characterised as fly-by-nights - in the best cases inflating their credentials and facilities, and in the worst cases unabashedly swindling students. But there are many credible institutions dedicated to providing education, with an emphasis on career advancement.

Their importance cannot be underestimated, particularly in light of the legacy of apartheid which left a large percentage of people either under-educated or not educated at all.

A vacuum exists and companies are scrambling to recruit from a pool of educated workers too small to fill the demand.

The gap is a complex one. There remains staggering unemployment. In SA there is a large gap at the high end of the market, requiring highly specialised graduate work and skills.

"The majority of people realise the need to have a basic tertiary qualification if they are to have any chance of employment," says Karin Fischer, head of the student advisory unit and regis-



Learning power ... demand for higher education is fuelling the debate about public versus private universities such as Midrand

tration at Midrand University.

Midrand began operating as a university this year, following enactment of the 1997 Higher Education Act, which legalised private universities.

To qualify as a university an institution has to "comply with internationally accepted criteria and uphold internationally recognised university ethos and traditional values, apply itself diligently to teaching, research and

## Private institutions 'parasitic'

community service, offer degree programmes and have the majority of its students studying towards such degrees".

Midrand can now confer degrees directly but continues to offer qualifications in association with other institutions: Unisa, Santa Monica College (United States) and Thames Valley University (Britain). Courses offered in alliance with foreign institutions are based entirely on their syllabi, though materials are adapted for SA students.

The fact that Midrand also offers degrees in alliance with other universities is controversial and has sparked debate between traditional public universities and the emerging privates.

University of Witwatersrand sociology professor Eddie Webster says private institutions are parasitic. Rather than offering choices to the mass of the previously disadvantaged, they provide relatively privileged students a more intensive and better resourced higher education.

"Private universities don't have to carry the cost of independent academic research and development," says Webster.

"A university must be judged not on the transmission of, but on the generation of knowledge.

"I judge universities by their capacity to generate new knowledge and research - and that's very expensive. The privates are only teaching and I consider them to be parasitic and driven by a desire for profit."

In the current debate, private institutions have been accused of prioritising profit and failing to deliver an academically sound product. Many opponents contend that education should be about ideals, not money, with the conclusion that education and profit are a contradiction.

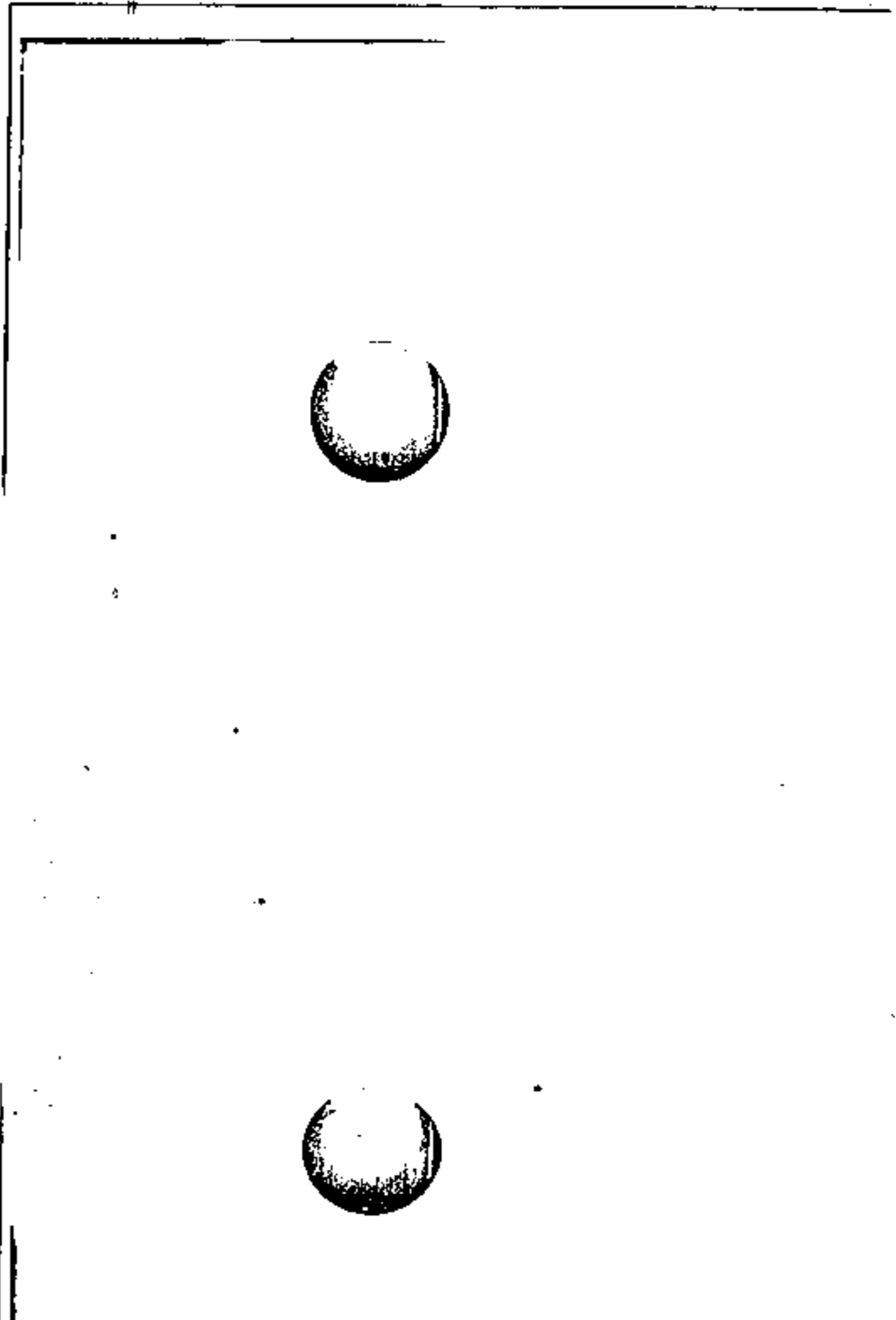
But Midrand's director of studies Sue Bedil, believes that the two are not incompatible: "No higher education institution can prosper without maintaining rigorous academic standards."

"The market can, and does act as a checks and balances mechanism; those institutions which

provide academically sound, quality education will continue to attract students and be profitable. Those that do not will flounder."

Dr Derek Swemmer, of the Wits registrar's office, says

private institutions can have a training role to play. They have a largely vocational focus: "There is a distinction between training and education. The changing environment requires training them for the





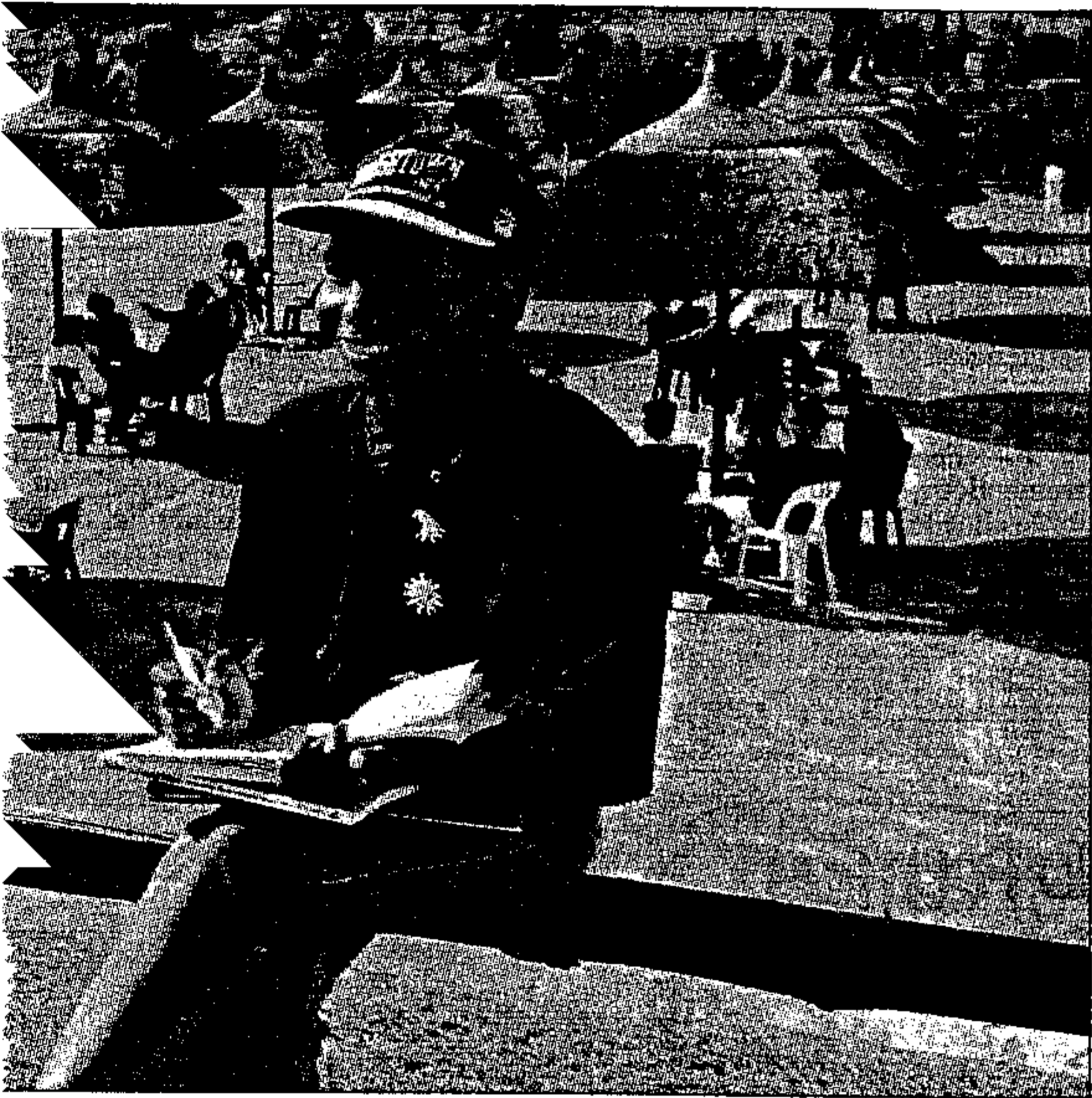
# mean a job – any job

(54)

STAR 14/4/99

careers: in South Africa, with massive unemployment, it simply means a better shot at the roles of private universities, the State universities, and rip-off colleges

JOHN ROBINSON



...lling the debate about public versus private universities such as Midrand.

Witswatersrand or Eddie Webster. Institutions are more than offering the privileged, they provide a more privileged, more extensive and better education.

Universities don't have most of independent research and development. Webster says they must be judged on the basis of their knowledge. Universities by their ability to create new knowledge – and that's why the privates are considered to be driven by a desire

In the debate, private universities have been accused of being expensive and failing to provide academically sound education. Opponents contend that education should be based on money, with the government subsidizing education and research.

...s director of

provide academically sound, quality education will continue to attract students and be profitable. Those that do not will flounder."

Dr Derek Swemmer, of the Wits registrar's office, says

private institutions definitely have a training role to play, but they have a largely vocational focus: "There is a difference between training people for a changing environment and training them for the current

one. Universities should train students to develop skills to solve problems which have not yet been identified."

For many students the issue is far simpler: education is not a goal in itself per se, but a means to a job.

In an economic environment where the 1997 official figure for unemployment was a staggering 22,9% the debate can seem irrelevant. Obtaining secondary education is only half the battle for students entering the highly competitive job market.

Fischer says that at Midrand University they seek to educate students both academically and practically in order to gain access to the best possible jobs.

In addition to traditional academic courses Midrand also offers instruction in pre-employment readiness, business ethics and basic computer skills.

Fischer says they bridge the gap between institutions such as Unisa and students who want a more traditional campus experience. Midrand offers students face-to-face tuition as well as a library and other facilities.

In addition to face-to-face instruction, Midrand stresses the need for a practical application of knowledge in the form of internships in the

business sector. In this regard, both private and public institutions are in agreement.

Bedil says that Midrand, as an emerging private university, aims to work in co-operation with the public sector to contribute to the quality of higher education.

Webster says it's part of a worldwide trend stressing the need for partnerships between universities and stakeholders, including the business sector, labour and non-government organisations.

The idea of partnerships between government and the private sector is also one advocated by the Minister of Education, Professor Sibusiso Bengu, who publically stated that through a sustained partnership Government will be able to provide learning opportunities which are needed and which the people deserve.

The role that private universities will play in the future has yet to be determined. The debates will go on, while people from all segments of society continue to seek higher education – whether in the form of an academic degree or vocational training.

The challenge is how to balance the need for highly educated and skilled workers with the majority of the population's need to find gainful employment – on any level.

# UWC academic sought for 1994 genocide in Rwanda <sup>(54)</sup>

THE Rwandan government has applied for the extradition of a Rwandan couple working at the University of the Western Cape who are wanted for alleged genocide, a spokesman for the Rwandan embassy in Pretoria said yesterday.

Dr Pierre Mugabo and his wife, Felicitee Musanganire, are wanted for an unknown number of killings in the genocide that claimed the lives of more than 500 000 Rwandans, mostly ethnic Tutsis, in 1994, Mr Felix Fundi, spokesman for the embassy said.

He said the Rwandan government had applied to the South African Department of Foreign Affairs for the couple's arrest and extradition.

Department of Home Affairs spokesman Mr Hennie Meyer said

the two Rwandans had not renewed their work permits since 1997, SABC radio news reported yesterday.

Mugabo, a physician, teaches in the pharmacology department and his wife is a nurse, both at the University of the Western Cape, Fundi said.

A university spokesman, Mr Alwyn van Gensen, confirmed that Mugabo worked at the university.

In Rwanda, Mugabo was a medical doctor at the university hospital in Butare, where he "was involved in the killing of a family", Fundi said.

Fundi said Musanganire had given lists of the names of victims to the ethnic Hutu police and army.

Mugabo yesterday denied the allegations in an interview with SABC television news.

The SABC said Mugabo was one

of several Rwandans living in South Africa who were wanted for war crimes in the 1994 genocide that claimed more than 500 000 lives.

Meanwhile, in Lausanne, Switzerland, a military tribunal decided yesterday it cannot try a former Rwandan mayor for genocide and crimes against humanity, but pressed on with his trial on charges including murder and incitement to murder.

Fulgence Niyonteze (34) is suspected of inciting Hutu extremists to kill Tutsis and moderate Hutus and of supplying them with weapons.

Prosecution attorney Mr Claude Nicati expressed "deep regret" at the court's decision to throw out the genocide charges on the grounds that they could not be tried under Swiss law. — Sapa-AP.

# University of North dumps law firm

(74) Sowetan 15/4/99

By Makhudu Sefara

**T**HE University of the North has cut ties with a Pietersburg-based law firm that was hired to recover student debts after it allegedly defrauded the institution of more than a million rands.

Speaking at a news conference held on the university's premises late on Tuesday, Unin council chairman Mr Benny Boshielo said the matter had already been submitted to the Heath special investigation unit which is currently probing allegations of serious financial irregularities at the institution.

Boshielo said the dispute with the law firm, whose name is known to *Sowetan*, stemmed from the university's increased reliance on outside professionals for crucial services.

The owner of the law firm refused to comment yesterday, saying he would only speak to the press after receiving the entire 450-page Mojapelo Commission of Inquiry report released this

week. The law firm had reportedly recovered more than R1,25 million but kept R1 million of the amount. Boshielo told journalists that a new debt collection company had been employed.

Another discovery by the commission was that Unin had invested over R15 million on a Section 21 company, EduPark, in Pietersburg. However, it had no legally binding documents to show that the amount had to be paid back to the institution with interest.

## Gross negligence

The commission said there was gross negligence by management in dealing with university funds.

The commission also recommended that all senior positions at the institution be reviewed and their relevance be ascertained, a move that is likely to cause uneasiness in the institution.

Mojapelo also found that corruption was rife with particular reference to the creation of posts and the manner in which they were filled.

30 19/4/99

# University withdraws its recognition of Nehawu

54

Renee Grawitzky

UNIVERSITY of Cape Town vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphele last month revoked its recognition of the National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) following an alleged breach of the recognition agreement.

The union has referred the matter to the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration.

The decision means Nehawu no longer has access to a union office on campus and the status of full-time shop stewards has been withdrawn.

It is understood that the recognition agreement provides for the involvement of the union in various forums.

The university said its decision followed a meeting at which the union said it would no longer participate in any structures with management until two workers dismissed during a strike last year had been reinstated.

Management viewed this as a breach or "de facto withdrawal from the recognition agreement".

Management said the aim of the recognition agreement was to "regulate the relationship between the university and the union and, in so doing, to strive to establish an effective and co-operative working relationship".

The union is engaged in a broader battle with tertiary education institutions over retrenchments. It was referred to the National Economic, Development and Labour Council and an education summit will be held next month.

# Academic starts fight for the 'Africanisation of knowledge'

*Sauerhan 19/4/99*

**By Victor Mecoamere**  
Education Correspondent

THE new principal of the Sebokeng campus of Vista University, Professor Siphso Seepe, is passionate about what he describes as the Africanisation of knowledge.

His own particular research and academic interests are exploring the cultural, social and political dimensions of mathematics and science education.

His other pet subject is investigating the employment of African languages for teaching mathematics and science, and he says his new role affords him the chance to put his theories into practice.

Seepe, formerly head of mathematics and science education at the University of Venda, says his primary wish is to turn the campus into "an African institution of high standards which will address itself to the various challenges that affect Africa".

He has been a vocal critic of the slow pace of the tertiary system in matching the pace of the latest global trends, and feels that he is now in a suitable position to implement some of his

ideas.

"As a campus principal, I want to see myself moving away from being a virtual clerk and becoming an active academic and intellectual who will guide the university's curricular transformation, its social role and its place in the national and international landscape.

"The African identity of the institution should be located in the treatment of African issues not as a by-product but by moving African issues in the academic, social, political and economical milieu from the periphery to the centre.

"Look at Shakespeare and the works of people like Es'kia Mphahlele, Wole Soyinka. Shakespeare seems to be in the forefront, while African authors are treated as an afterthought. And yet this is Africa.

"History should also not be about white conquests and white-oriented, while we have the exploits and writings of people like (Steve) Biko, (Robert) Sobukwe and (Sol) Plaatje to consider.

"Our students should relate to their continent and be inspired by the intellectual vibrancy of var-

ious activities like daily seminars,

where there would be free access to intellectuals and politicians such as Mphahlele, Blade Nzimande, Mathews Phosa, Iumeleng Mosala, Zakes Mda and Barney Pitjana."

Seepe says he believes that "failure to use our people in creative, intellectual discourses" leads to violence at tertiary institutions "because we do not exact too much from our lecture halls".

"Most students seem to feel they miss little by staying away from lectures."

Seepe wants Sebokeng Vista to become an Africanised institution with high standards, where "a 10 percent pass should not be regarded as normal, while whites regard an 80 percent average as a poor performance".

Previously a physical science teacher at Moretele College of Education, and a mathematics and physics lecturer at the Medical University of South Africa, Seepe believes that science education is one area in which Sebokeng Vista will be expected to excel under his guidance.

"I want us to present lectures and study material at a level that is easily accessible and compre-

hensible to the ordinary student - the saddest thing about our current approach is that it is at a level where only experts are familiar with the subject.

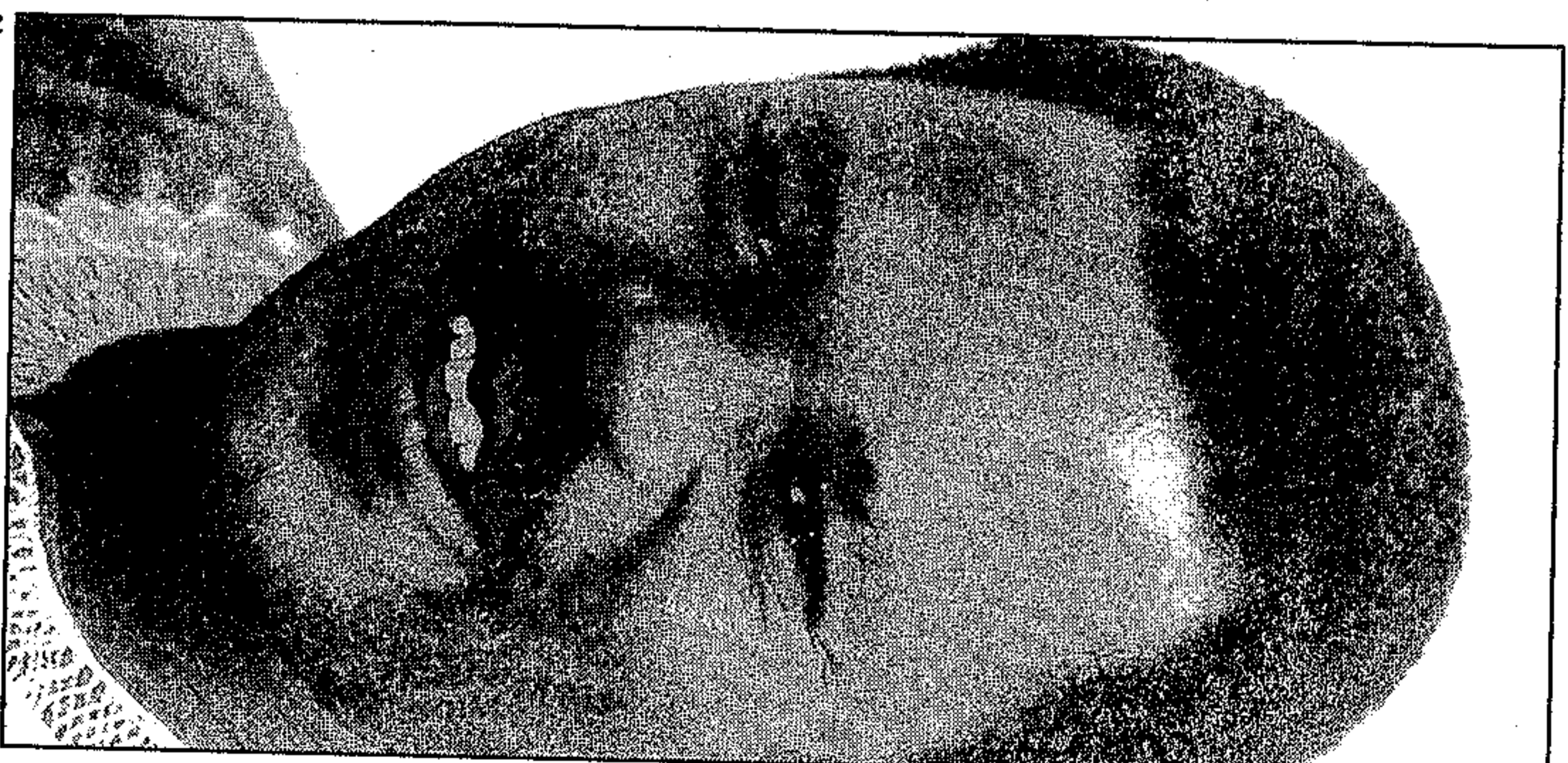
"Simply put, we should rewrite a lot of material comprehensibly, making it easy for our students to relate to, like using boomerangs and bows and arrows to explain aerodynamics."

Sebokeng Vista is also due to start a community outreach programme that is aimed at touching the lives of pupils of schools in and around Sebokeng and serving as a community venue, instead of being "a white elephant during weekends or school holidays".

Seepe says there should be a healthy partnership between the university and schools. "We should see our lecturers sharing their expertise and experiences with both pupils and teachers.

"I would also like to see us adopting classes and schools, and opening the institution to various local institutions, like the local metropolitan council.

"For instance, we could have special courses for local councillors, and the school has a large hall, which can be used for various community functions."



New campus principal Professor Siphso Seepe wants to turn Sebokeng Vista into an African institution of higher learning with high standards.  
PIC: ANTONIO MUCHAVE

# British govt (54) boosts Vista

By Sphiwe Mpye

VISTA University's Soweto campus yesterday received some good news with the announcement of a R50 000 donation from the British government.

British minister for education and employment, Baroness Tessa Blackstone, who is in South Africa to help strengthen cooperation in education and training between the two countries, said yesterday: "The donation should be used towards sport and Vista should share the facilities and equipment with the community."

Vista Soweto principal Professor Diale Rangaka said the community was already using campus facilities. He said the donation would be used to kick-start the first phase of a campus sports and recreation development project.

66/17/15/19/4/99  
Soweto

# Principal grasps Fort Hare's financial nettle

Barely three weeks into his new position as acting principal of the university, Derrick Swartz is competing in a race against time to prevent the closure of the institution, writes **Primarashni Pillay**

PH 20 | 4 | 99

(514)

THE first task for Fort Hare University acting principal Derrick Swartz, who started his six-month term at the financially troubled institution on April 1, was to settle its bank overdraft of R57m.

He used government's annual subsidy and now has R43m left to run the university for the rest of the year.

He and his soon-to-be-appointed interim management team have to delicately juggle the university's finances over the next six months — or it could plummet into another crisis.

The executive committee of the university council appointed Swartz following a recommendation by independent assessor Stuart Saunders that the contract of then-principal Mbulelo Mzamane not be renewed.

Saunders was appointed by the education ministry to investigate problems on the campus. This disclosed that Mzamane lacked fiscal discipline and that there was a lack of efficient financial systems.

Saunders recommended the closure of the university. Swartz, who heads the university's Institute of Gov-

ernment which offers management training for government officials, was also on the Presidential Review Commission, which investigated the restructuring of the public service. He enjoys the confidence of the university's transformation forum, which believes he has the credentials to steer Fort Hare's finances towards less turbulent waters.

Swartz has been faced with three options: witnessing the university's finances deteriorate further and seeing it close; allowing it to "totter on the brink of collapse for decades"; or getting its finances in order.

He chose the latter, adding that the university "must find its rightful place with other universities".

As a starting point the university received a R100m subsidy from government this month and used R57m to pay off its bank overdraft. The remainder leaves little for funding research and other initiatives.

Swartz plans to implement cost-saving measures like cutting personnel and operating expenditure because there is "too much wastage" and duplication.

His predecessor, Mzamane, had already started this process more than a year ago with the restructuring of the administrative and service departments, which led to the retrenchment of 900 people.

"We need to follow up with academic restructuring," Swartz said, adding that this would bring with it the retraining and reskilling of staff.

Today's universities needed to look at the needs of public society, the economy and global trends in order to justify their existence.

"All programmes will have to undergo a major overhaul and, if you run mainstream departments in a manner that generates revenue, then you can subsidise other programmes," he said.

He warned that should the university continue at its current rate of expenditure — and if it failed to restructure and rationalise — the bank overdraft would soar to R52m in December and R82m in March 2000.

As part of an urgent campaign to recover money owing to the institution, Swartz intends meeting with the Eastern Cape government to retrieve outstanding student bursaries and scholarships. A number of career

public servants were studying at the university part-time and the province had not yet paid in their fees.

While outstanding student fees were trickling in, the fee collection system had to improve so that management could predict financial problems "ahead of time instead of facing them on the spot". Swartz was also adamant that the university had to find ways of generating income. Its financial situation could result in a "creative tension" for staff to generate extra income through research, consultancy and development work.

Siyabonga Kobese, chairman of the university's transformation forum, said it was imperative for Swartz and his interim management team to have a restructuring framework in place.

"Our budgets for departments must be cut at some stage and people need to understand why."

Swartz is confident that the "ship will be turned around. We have a groundswell of support."

# New law will keep colleges on track

## Stricter rules on the way next month

ANDREA BOTHA  
Staff Reporter

South Africa's training and education needs have created a gap for private colleges and training institutions - many of which are fly-by-night companies that rip off unsuspecting students.

"It's a huge problem," admits Keith Loynes, chief planner of Technical College Education for the provincial education department. He estimates there are 300 privately owned colleges in the Western Cape.

Until the Further Education and Training Act was passed last year, there was no legislation requiring colleges to register with the department.

Just about anyone could start up a college, hire instructors and charge fees for so-called training courses. Students wanting to register at such a college had to check with the education department and ensure that it was a bona fide training centre.

Many realise too late that the "college" with which they have registered is a fraud. "We've had applications for registration from companies running from a garage with 10 computers," says Mr Loynes.

In one instance, lawyers approached the education department to help them in a court case against a college that had taken hundreds of thousands of rands from students and left them in the lurch.

When the new law comes into operation next month, all colleges will have to apply or re-apply for registration as private further education and training institutions. They will have to meet a set of

requirements relating to the adequacy of premises, teachers' qualifications and solvency. This means the department can exercise some control over the colleges and be in a position to act on complaints.

"At the moment, there is nothing we can do," says Saïd Dawood, senior planner of Technical College Education at the department. The Western Cape has privately owned and state-owned colleges.

State-owned colleges - like the Cape College, Tygerberg College and the South Peninsula Technical College - offer courses ranging from secretarial and business to plumbing, tourism and bricklaying.

The diplomas and certificates obtained after these courses give

ARU 21/4/99

students good job prospects. The South Peninsula Technical College, for example, boasts a 100% job placement success.

Most of these diplomas are internationally recognised and endorsed by the industry trading boards.

Many of the bigger privately owned colleges like Dannelin and Varsity College offer diploma, certificate and degree courses. These companies were not previously required to register with the education department and many are registered with trade boards or institutions.

For example, Varsity College is linked to the University of South Africa (Unisa) and students registering for a BA or BComm degree at the college, simultaneously register at Unisa.

The student attends lectures at Varsity College.

Dannelin has diploma, certificate and degree courses, and offers training to schoolchildren and adults on a full-time or part-time basis.

National director of studies Suli Eksteen said courses at Dannelin were not necessarily cheaper than universities, but classes were smaller and aimed at the individual needs of students.

Other centres, like Executive Education, cater mostly for professionals between 25 and 40 who are working full-time and want extra skills and training.

Cape regional manager Zack van Straten said the company had been in Cape Town for 26 years and offered mostly diploma and certificate courses.

The new regulations and legislation have been welcomed by education officials and will be launched nationally on May 20.

### What you'll pay

Prices for training courses vary and depend on the length and content of the course.

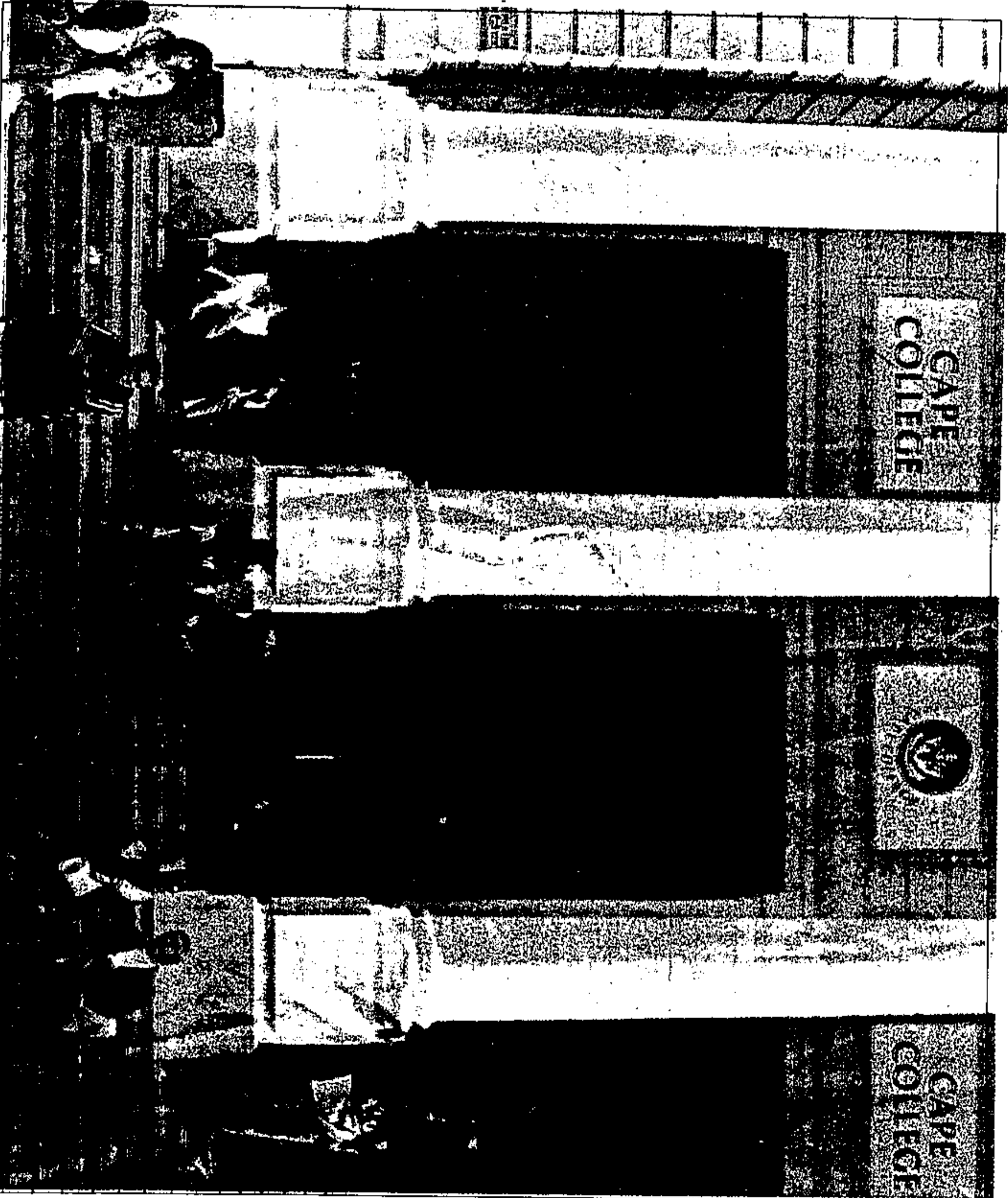
■ At the University of Cape Town, a basic BA degree will cost R9 700 in the first year.

■ An introductory computer course at Varsity College costs R990 for six evening classes, while a computer diploma costs R2 950 and covers 12 full days.

■ All part-time business courses at Executive Education cost R2 000.

■ At South Peninsula College, a three-year marketing diploma course - including computer training - will cost about R2 000 a year.

■ At Dannelin, a business management course on Saturdays over five months will cost R5 210, while a small business course over four months will cost R3 415.



School is out: students sit outside the Cape College after class. New regulations and legislation to be launched in May will enforce the registration of all private colleges

WYANE CONRAGE



# Wilmot James recruits Jakes Gerwel for UCT

PRISCILLA SINGH  
EDUCATION WRITER

THE University of Cape Town has announced that the director-general in the President's office Jakes Gerwel has accepted an offer to join the faculty of humanities as the institution's first "Distinguished Professor".

UCT introduced the distinguished professor as a new category of professorships last year in an effort to recognise existing professors who had excelled beyond their discipline, or new professors regarded as national intellectual assets.

Gerwel has been honoured as a national intellectual asset and is the first such distinguished professor to be appointed by UCT.

Gerwel has made his mark as director-general, and was also recently inducted as chancellor of Rhodes University.

Acting UCT vice-chancellor Wieland Gevers said: "As part of its transformation process, the university is particularly keen that students should have access to people of great distinction such as Professor Gerwel, with his wealth of experience in academic and public life. His contribution will add inestimable value to both undergraduate and postgraduate studies."

In a motivation presented to the university council, the dean of humanities, Wilmot James, outlined Gerwel's accomplishments as a

(54) scholar, university administrator and his experience in the President's office for the past five years. "His accumulated expertise, knowledge and ability would add great value to UCT."

Gerwel's achievements include helping to resolve the Libyan affair, reflecting the calibre of work done on behalf of the President in both domestic and international affairs. During this time, Gerwel was also secretary of the cabinet, and was involved in a number of non-government organisations.

"Sharing these experiences in a scholarly and analytical manner with colleagues would not only be highly instructive, but would serve as an inspirational guidance to students of government and public affairs," James said.

Gerwel is appointed on a "major-time" basis and has yet to declare his preferred area of discipline within the humanities department.

James said that Gerwel had established his reputation as a scholar early in his career, particularly his abilities as a literary critic.

He rose rapidly from the position of professor to dean and then vice-chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, where he led a transformation process before it had become common to do so.

"Under his charge, UWC produced many a cadre of individuals who took leading places at other universities and, which is noteworthy, in our national democratic life," James said.

ET 23/4/99

# Saturday Star exposes Medunsa entrance scam - Heath unit to investigate

BY SHARDA NAIDOO

524

The *Saturday Star* has uncovered a scam in which students are paying large amounts of cash to buy places at the Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa).

The Health Special Investigating Unit has confirmed Medunsa is under investigation for alleged bribery and corruption, following a mandate from the State President's office this week for a full investigation.

Special investigator Alex Pfeiffer confirmed the unit was investigating bribery and corruption allegations at Medunsa. According to several parents and students

interviewed, a ticket into Medunsa costs between R30 000 and R90 000. A Durban parent who tried to buy her daughter a place but could not raise R45 000 said it was common knowledge that paying R45 000 guaranteed a place into first year. About R60 000 got a seat into second year and R87 000 plus got one straight into third year.

In March last year, she and two other parents met one of the agents, a female doctor from Dundee - whose name is known to the *Saturday Star*. One parent had already paid money for a place for his son, who had already been admitted. The other mother took R90 000

to secure a seat for her son and her friend's son, who had been studying medicine in India.

She said she witnessed the exchange of the money and the agent's husband even showed them a list of 10 names that were on standby.

The money was paid on a Saturday and the parents received a call from the agent the following day telling them to take their children to register on the Monday.

"Two months after the visit, I got a phone call from the agent asking me to deposit R2 000 into a bank account for an application form for 1999 admission and a further R500 for the running around costs. She asked me to give her

R65 000 afterwards as the price had gone up.

Shanaaz Peer, from King Williams Town, Eastern Cape, said her three Durban cousins bought places into third year at Medunsa from the Dundee doctor.

"My family is wealthy and we were approached several times by agents. I refused to pay to get a place. It's immoral and unethical. One cousin didn't even do physical science at school. Another friend bought a place and he got only a senior certificate matric pass."

She was so upset she wrote to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu and Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal.

Star 24/4/99

# Shock AIDS test

## result at varsity

Nearly a quarter of the surveyed students are HIV-positive

ST 25/4/99

(54)

PREGA GOVENDER

**N**EARLY a quarter of the students surveyed in a random AIDS test at Durban-Westville University are HIV-positive.

A shocking 88 of the 385 students who took the saliva test were found to be HIV-positive — and 65 of the 88 are women.

At an urgent meeting of the university council last Saturday, it was unanimously agreed that the university would pay for blood tests for any student who wanted one.

The university's vice-chancellor, Professor Maphule Ramashala, and deputy vice-chancellor, Dr Simon Kekana, urged the students who took part in the survey to have blood tests and engage in safe sex.

At an upcoming senate meeting, Ramashala will table a proposal calling for AIDS education to become a compulsory part of the university's curriculum.

As part of its AIDS initiative, the university has also invited Gauteng High Court Judge Edwin Careron — who this week publicly disclosed that he has AIDS — to address students.

While acknowledging that irresponsible attitudes to sex on campus have to be changed, the university has also resolved to install condom dispensing machines on campus.

Kiru Naidoo, the university's director of public affairs, said the survey showed that the university was not an "ivory tower" immune to the everyday problems facing the rest of society.

Naidoo said the study was commissioned by the university's registrar, Professor Alan Brimer, following a council meeting last November.

"Random, anonymous saliva tests were conducted by the university's resident doctor and the samples were sent to a laboratory for analysis," he said.

Naidoo said the university was determined to undertake further HIV studies to get a more accurate profile of HIV infection on campus.

"But we are satisfied that the results give us some sort of indication of the extent of infection," he said.

Another Kwazulu-Natal university, the University of Natal, has also commissioned a study on HIV and AIDS.

Professor Alan White, director of health and HIV and AIDS research, said the university "had the foresight to commission a study looking at the potential impact of AIDS on the university. The study is in draft form and we will be sharing the results and methodology with other institutions in due course. For the purpose of this study, it was not necessary to test students or staff."

Professor Alan Smith from the University of Natal's virology department said saliva testing had proved to be fairly accurate. "Although it may not be as accurate as blood tests, when the testing is done on a fairly large number of subjects it's enough to get statistically valid results," he said.

Alarmed at the spread of AIDS on campuses, a body controlling the country's 36 public universities and technikons has sent out a circular asking members to outline how they are dealing with the disease.

# Lectures to resume at Vista, Soweto

Primarashni Pillay

LECTURES at Vista University's Soweto campus are to resume today after the Student Representative Council (SRC) guaranteed the safety of principal Diale Rangaka, who was marched off the campus last week.

Campus spokesman Peter Maher said academic staff held a meeting on Monday at which it was agreed that lectures would resume today.

Lectures on the campus were disrupted last week when management objected to the SRC settling the outstanding registration fees of about 200 students. Students were required to pay a registration fee of R635.

About 200 students paid R35 and the SRC agreed to settle the outstanding R600 for these students.

Rangaka was marched off the university's campus by

BD 28/4/99 (54)  
protesting students, and lectures were suspended.

However, SRC project officer Obert Mathivha said this week that management had initially agreed to the SRC assisting students.

He said the SRC was calling on the education department to appoint a commission of inquiry into Rangaka's office on the grounds of alleged corruption, incompetence and "lack of commitment to students".

Mathivha said Rangaka "does not want to use his discretion when it comes to student exclusions. He ... rubber-stamps decisions that come from the central campus in Pretoria, and his role needs to be defined."

It is understood that the university council had agreed to an inquiry into the main campus management.

Education ministry spokesman Bheki Khumalo said the ministry had not yet been approached by the SRC.

He condemned the students' dismissal of Rangaka, and said that the issue could have been raised with the campus head office or the university council.

Meanwhile, ECN reports that Fort Hare university has informed graduands that unless they pay their outstanding fees they will not be allowed to graduate next week.

Public affairs department deputy director Mbeko Mnyatheli said the number of students who had not paid was small, but the university could not provide a service for nonpayers. It was recently reported that the university would have R43m for the current financial year after R57m of its total R100m government allocation was paid to banks to cover an overdraft.

The university recently appointed acting vice-chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz to the helm after former vice-chancellor Mbulelo Mzamane and two other senior management members were suspended pending investigations into allegations of mismanagement.

Fort Hare SRC president Liso Sogayise appealed to students to pay outstanding fees because of the poor financial state of the university.

## ESTABLISHED GERMAN BUSINESS IS LOOKING FOR SOUTH AFRICAN AGENTS

Here's your chance to earn money!

Here's how:

**You** can sell our compact range of unique electricity and watersaving products.

Now in South Africa!

Quality products imported from Germany.

Ideal for industrial, domestic and D.I.Y. applications.

Your investment of R20 000 (which includes stock), secures you a unique

business opportunity

# Place-buying scam at Medunsa: new allegations

(74) ARG 1/5/99

**SHARDA NAIDOO**

An investigation into the place-buying scandal at the Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa), which came to light last week, is gaining momentum.

Last week it was discovered that there were several agents, allegedly working with Medunsa, who asked students to pay between R45 000 and R90 000 each to secure places at the university.

This week special investigator Alex Pheiffer from the Heath Special Investigating Unit said a Dundee medical practitioner, Dr Farida Nannabhai, and her doctor husband – both accused of selling places to students – admitted that they were involved in the so-called scam.

“They said they were selling places with the consent of Medunsa and a percentage was given to the university,” Mr Pheiffer said.

The commission would next week summon the two doctors to furnish

them with bank statements and other financial documents after receiving a proclamation from President Nelson Mandela.

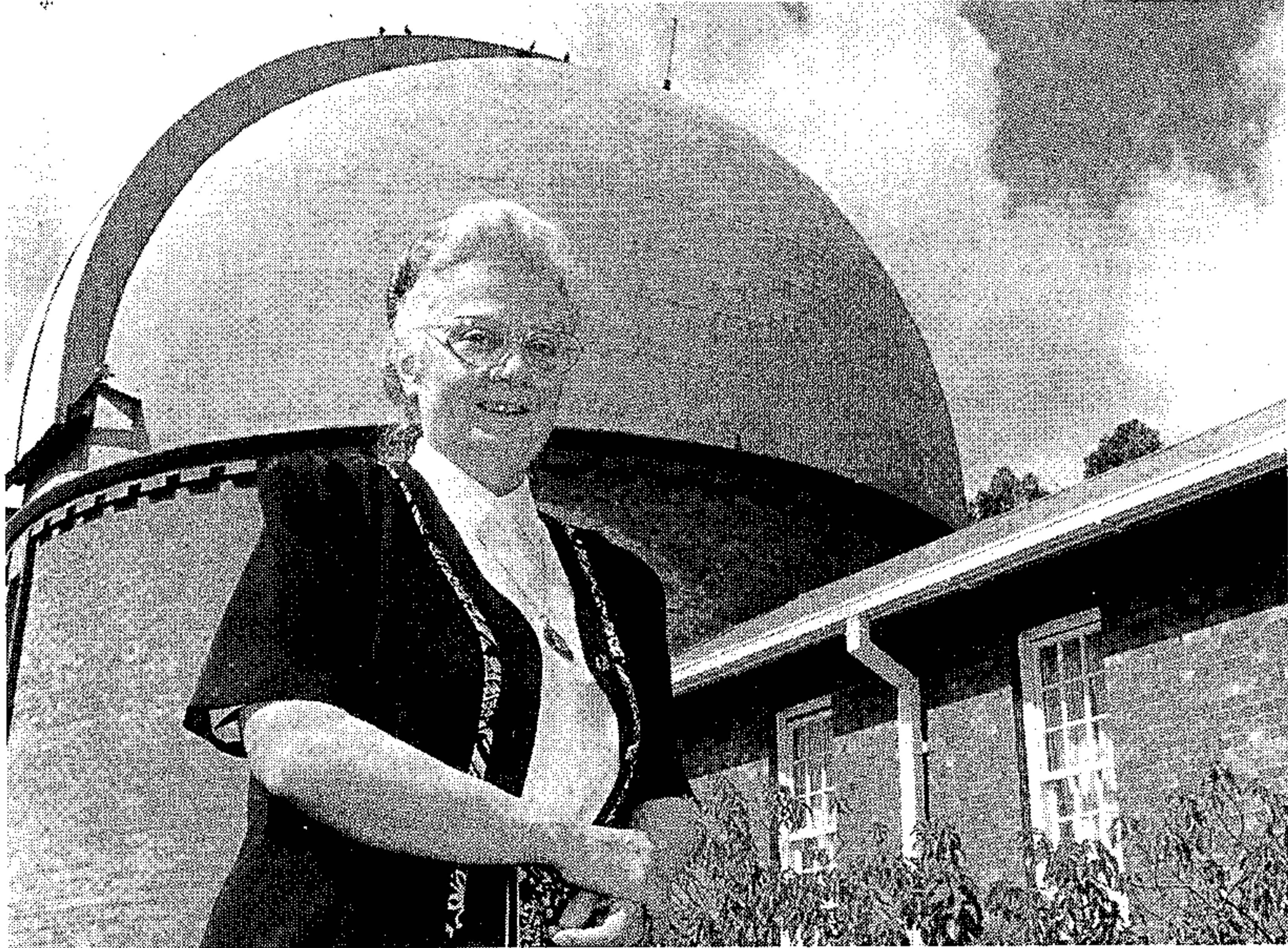
When Dr Nannabhai was contacted at her home she said she had “no comment” and hung up.

This week The Independent on Saturday newspaper was inundated with calls from people who provided information about other agents involved in selling places at Medunsa and the names of students who had secured places through paying alleged bribes.

In a press statement this week, Medunsa reiterated that management and the students took note not only of the Heath Special Investigating Unit’s probe, but also of the “permission granted by our State President Nelson Mandela for a full probe into these allegations”.

“Medunsa welcomes this because it will go a long way to help bring to an end, once and for all, allegations levelled against us.”

# ATIONAL



Prof Edith Raidt, CEO of SA's first private Catholic university, which will be launched in July.

Picture: ANDY KATZ

## Church to start private university

BD 3/5/99 (54)

### Primarashni Pillay

SA LOOKS set to have its first private Catholic university by July, following six years of planning.

The institution will be known as St Augustine University of SA once its academic programmes have been approved by the SA Qualifications Authority. The education department has meanwhile informally advised the institution's management to start the teaching programme.

The establishment of the university is the brainchild of a group of mainly Catholic lay academics, the clergy and business people, said its CEO Edith Raidt, a retired Professor of Afrikaans and Historical Linguistics at Wits University.

She said the university would function as a nonprofit company, and that it was funded by local and overseas donors. She said there were 14 Catholic universities in

Africa and more than 400 worldwide, but none in SA.

The university will at first offer only masters degrees in philosophy, applied ethics and theology. "We will start at post-graduate level as it is a mammoth task to start a university. We'll later on branch out into undergraduate degrees," Raidt said.

The university will have 25 part-time lecturers from local and overseas universities. Some of the local academics include Brian Gaybba, Professor of Theology at Rhodes University and Dr Augustine Shutte, senior lecturer of Philosophy at the University of Cape Town.

The lecturers will also include theologians from seminaries.

"We've entered into a bilateral agreement with the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium so there will be student and staff exchanges," Raidt said.

The institution has an Interna-

tional Academic Advisory Committee so that high standards would be maintained, Raidt said.

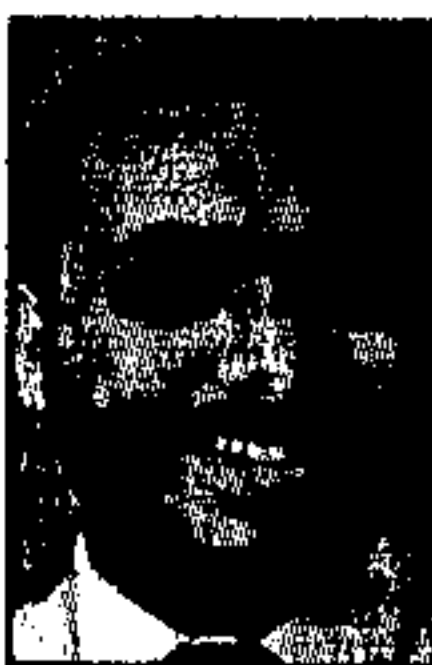
It will also have a Catholic ethos. "We want a clear value base. State universities tend to be value-free. We want to educate people to serve the community," she said.

To illustrate this, Raidt said the business ethics module in one of the masters degree programmes aimed to get people to behave in a "sensitive, fair manner. We want to bring Christian values to the market economy. People need to learn to act with integrity and justice as opposed to corruption and bribery".

Other aspects of the course include humanising a company so that "people are really important and that business serves the good of the individual", Raidt said.

Lectures start in July and there will be another student intake in January next year.

**HIGHER LEARNING**



*Transformation at the University of the Witwatersrand is gaining speed with the release of a draft strategic plan, called Shaping The Future, which seeks to make Wits Africa's premier academic institution in the 21st century. Edwin Naidu reports*

**Moving into a brighter future**

(54)  
Star 6/5/99

**U**ppbeat vice-chancellor Professor Colin Bundy reckons the transformation train is finally beginning to pick up speed at the University of Witwatersrand.

Bundy has surrounded himself with a team of executives with diverse backgrounds, but who share the same willingness to make Wits Africa's premier tertiary institution.

However, some of the inherited problems, such as a predominantly white academic staff and declining government subsidies, have contributed to making life as a senior manager at one of the country's top institution's a tenacious task.

Chatting from his 11th floor offices Bundy admits he is as passionate about making Wits connect with the city as he was when he moved into office.

He said the recent senior appointments have enabled Wits to organise its executive priorities and focus on the challenges of making Wits become one of the leading providers of higher education in the 21st century. Former welfare director-general Professor Lella Patel was appointed deputy vice-chancellor last October, while Dr Peter Thuynsma has joined as special advisor to Bundy, Andre de Wet as executive

director of finance and Professor Barry Mendelow as executive director of research.

Deputy vice chancellor, Nigerian academic Professor Adelani Ogunrinade, completes the management team.

A Strategic Planning Team, a committee with broadly representative membership, has eight groups set up, with each one looking at key issues.

Bundy is adamant that the strategic plan is not a talk shop, but a document which will bring about changes.

"All universities must submit an institutional plan (to government), and if Wits is to survive, we must use this plan to set priorities and decide on new directions," he said.

Apart from beefing up his management team Bundy said the university was considering changes on several fronts, including the possibility of restructuring all academic units; conducting an intensive review of all support and service structures to ensure Wits is operating most effectively; and finalising a draft strategic plan which attempts to equip Wits for the 21st century. The final version of the strategic plan, being debated by the university community, is expected to be ready at the end of June.

Like all South African ter-



Professor Colin Bundy

tiary institutions, Bundy said Wits was having to operate under stringent financial constraints, which have necessitated a review to ensure the university uses its resources profitably.

Regarding the academic staffing profile, which has been skewed despite the university's cosmopolitan student body, Bundy said Wits was taking seriously the need to diversify its staff profile. He said black aca-

demics made up 15% of staff.

"We are committed to increasing that percentage through recruitment and a range of strategies which include mentoring, training and integrating new staff into the university," he said.

Bundy conceded that while the university would not necessarily win the challenge of bringing about staff equity, it was mindful that a critical mass of qualified, high calibre people needed to be brought on-board to help change Wits.

Where would he like Wits to be in five years? "I would like to see Wits by then becoming the premier site for research and postgraduate studies in Africa. I would like to see Wits boast a range of international partnerships, especially with African institutions.

"Wits has the capacity to become the intellectual powerhouse.

"The university also has to focus on urgent social and intellectual needs, for example Aids and the fight against poverty."

Bundy said he would like Wits to become less shy about being a top class university. "People ask me if I intend to maintain standards, I say no, I intend to improve them," he said.

**Wits sees need to change its staffing profile**

By Edwin Naidu

The University of Witwatersrand boasts a 52-48 mix of black and white students, but it lags behind in its staff profile matching the changing student demographics, according to deputy vice-chancellor Professor Lella Patel.

She said the changes in staff profile at Wits had progressed at a slower pace than the student numbers, which had increased from 10% of blacks in 1994 to 52% in 1999.

"We have a long way to go, but this reflects the national situation.

"Currently, 17% of Wits academic staff are black. There are many reasons for this. There is greater competition for a small pool of qualified people. We are committed to creating opportunities for the development of young people through programmes, mentoring and the creation of opportunities for post graduate

study and research," she said.

In 1994, out of 18 194 students, 8 997 were African, 347 coloured, 2 168 Indian and 11 682 white, while this year out of 16 785 students, 6144 are African, 355 coloured, 2 501 Indian and 7 785 white.

Five years ago out of a total pool of 4 714 staff, 1 787 were African, 91 coloured, 141 Indian and 2 713 white with two of unknown race. The situation in 1999 is in a total of 4 230 staff, 1 714 is African, 82 coloured, 181 Indian and 2 233 white while 20 staff members are unknown.

In 1994 there were 113 black academics and in 1999 there are 157. This compares to 708 white academic staff in 1994 and 638 in 1999. In 1994 there were 1 654 black support staff with 1 557 in 1999. There were 802 white support staff in 1994

and 610 in 1999. There were 22 coloured academic staff in 1994 and 16 in 1999.

Although Wits's mission statement in 1992 pledged to "redress the imbalances in its staff profile" the university has not successfully managed to achieve this goal.

"We cannot claim that, no institution can in South Africa. We are further ahead than any other tertiary institution in South Africa in terms of transformation. We are trying to create an environment to attract people and retain them in order to address the imbalances," Patel said.

Wits is committed to attracting and retaining excellent staff and in providing ongoing development opportunities. A range of Academic Support activities are in place

for staff and students. Wits has two programmes aimed at encouraging black academics to come to Wits, improve qualifications and stay at Wits. The university also has a mentor programme called "Growing Our Own Timber".

Patel said universities throughout South Africa are trying to change their ethos to become more responsive to the social and economic needs of the country. "At Wits we are faced with the challenge of creating an environment where students and staff can grapple with what it means to be a rounded professional or intellectual in SA today.

"Change brings with it insecurity and uncertainty. Universities have had to take a hard look at the ethos, the practices, what is taught and learned and researched, and whether old ways of organising the institution are still relevant. This is not an easy time but it is a time of renewal."

**'Further ahead than any other institution'**

# Mkhatshwa calls for aid to students

(54)

By Paul Letsoalo

DEPUTY Minister of Education Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa appealed to parents and business to assist needy students who are prepared to learn to overcome huge student debts.

Government policy, at least for now, is that higher education is not free.

"Since 1994 the Government has created the national student financial aid scheme to assist needy and deserving students," Mkhatshwa said.

He was speaking at a graduation ceremony at the Technikon of Northern Gauteng in Soshanguve, Pretoria, at the weekend.

Six hundred and fifty eight diplomas and degrees were conferred in the faculties of economics and education science.

"Investing in our youth is an investment in a brighter and prosperous future for all of us. I also urge students to take

their studies seriously," Mkhatshwa said.

"For every year that a student repeats, there is another young person somewhere who is denied an opportunity in higher education."

Failure to complete studies on time was contributing to huge student debts.

"The Government does not endorse a culture of entitlement. Paying for

higher education is obviously linked to the question of discipline among stu-

dents, especially those in higher education as they are regarded as adults,"

Mkhatshwa said.

He also raised concerns as the Government continue to spend millions of

rand in consultancy fees when "our universities and technikons are the very

architects of these consultants".

"Why should our institutions, especially the historically disadvantaged,

not generate the sorely needed additional income by providing the same services offered by consultants?"

Sowetan 10/5/99



# Where have the students gone?

## Government report on tertiary institutions finds slow growth patterns

LINDA VERSWAN  
 CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

South Africa's tertiary education system is growing more slowly than predicted and will reach just 650 000 students by 2001 instead of a previously projected figure of 1,1 million.

A report, released yesterday by the Department of Education, says that although tertiary institutions themselves estimated a 15% growth to 685 000 students by 2001, this projected increase may be "on the optimistic side".

This is due to factors like the declining number of pupils with matric exemption.

The report is based on three-year rolling plans submitted to the department by South Africa's 36 universities and technikons.

They were asked how they planned to contribute to four national policy priorities spelled out in a 1997 white paper on a programme for transformation of higher education. These priorities include increased student enrolments in key areas like science, engineering and technology, racial and gender equity among students and staff, increased efficiency and cost reduction plus co-operation between institutions.

The report on Higher Education Institutional Plans provides crucial data which will help the Government plan the future shape and size of a co-ordinated higher education system and phase in a new subsidy funding formula.

In future, tertiary institutions will have to submit plans every year to qualify for funding.

Among key findings are that the racial composition of the student body is undergoing "major

changes" and is beginning to reflect the demographic realities of the broader society. The overall percentage of black (African, coloured and Indian) students rose from 54% in 1993 to 69% in 1997 and will increase to a planned 73% in 2001.

The actual number of black students will almost double from a total of 267 000 in 1993 to a predicted 499 000 in 2001.

The growth in African student numbers has been particularly marked and has occurred primarily at Afrikaans universities and historically white technikons.

At Afrikaans universities, African student numbers increased from 5 000 in 1993 to 28 000 in 1997 and will rise to a planned 65 000 in 2001. The report notes that a large part of the growth in black student enrolments at Afrikaans universities is "in distance education and part-time programmes".

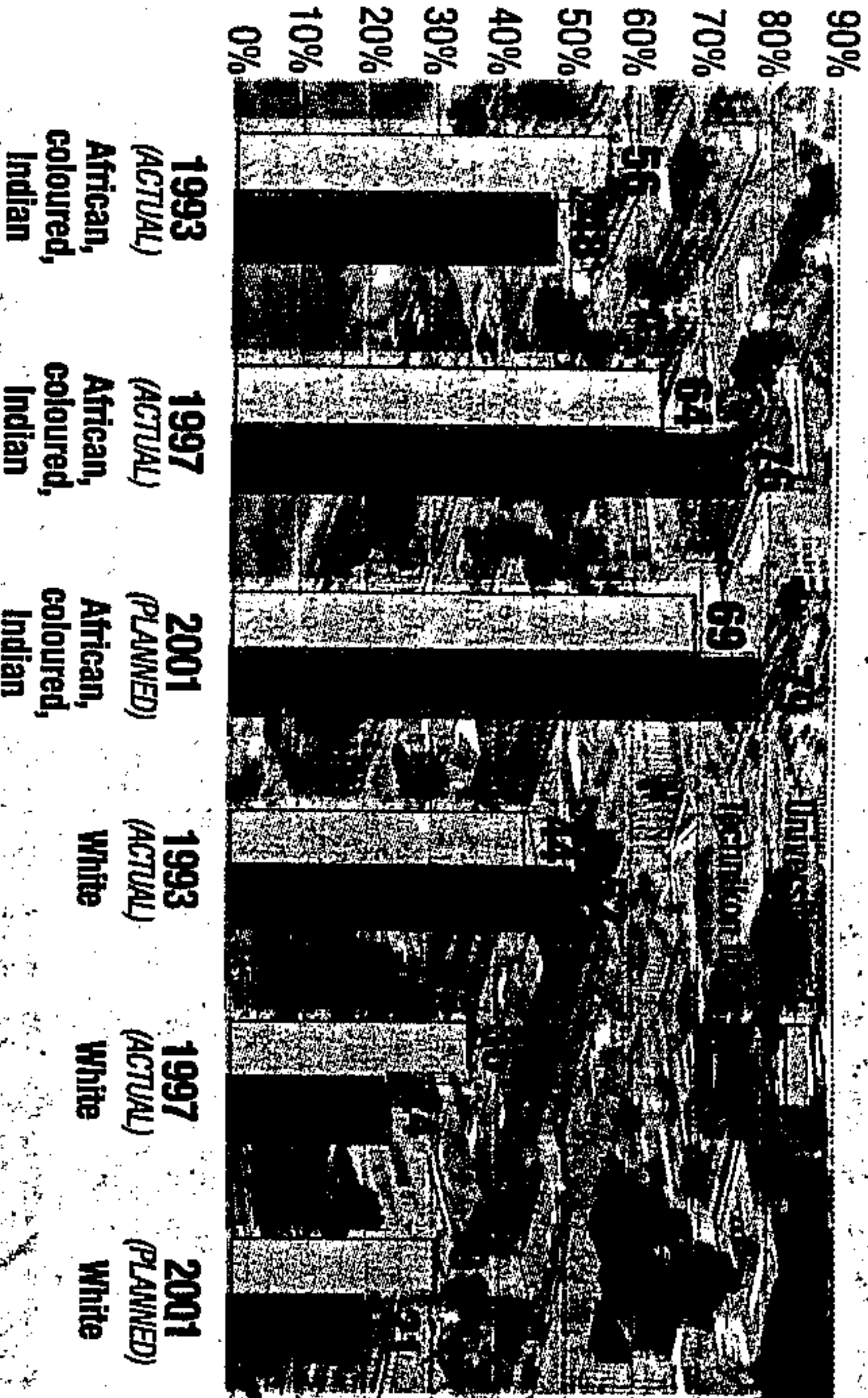
The report records a corresponding slump in white student numbers at public tertiary institutions from 46% of the total in 1993 to 31% in 1997, down to a planned 27% in 2001. This will mean total white student numbers will drop from 229 000 in 1993 to a projected 186 000 in 2001.

The report says it seems that white students, "influenced by perceptions of increasing instability and falling standards, are moving into private higher education institutions... This decrease may also be attributed to emigration".

Among trends highlighted in the report are that technikons are growing far faster than universities. There has been a 46% growth in student enrolments at technikons in the four years up to 1997 as against a 9% growth at universities in the same period.

By 2001, technikons predict their

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENROLLMENTS  
 African, coloured, Indian and white students



enrollments will increase by 30% to a total of 262 000 students, while universities predict a 12% enrolment increase to 423 000 students.

Nasima Badsha, the department's deputy director-general of higher education, was positive about the increase in black student enrolments, but said the decline in white students, who formed a solid fee-paying base at many institutions, was cause for concern.

She said the decline in numbers at certain institutions had complex causes and was "not necessarily bad". For example, many black universities had been "stretched beyond their capacity" with a huge

growth in student numbers in the 1980s and early 1990s.

With students moving to previously white universities, the historically black institutions might now be able to consolidate and build on their strengths.

"But if numbers decline beyond a certain level then it is a cause for concern. Generally, I think we want to plan in ways that ensure that the higher education system can respond to the economic and social needs of the country."

Ms Badsha said the white paper required the education department to "develop a national plan in which the Government signals the overall

growth parameters, shape and size of the higher education system".

This would be done over the next two years in consultation with the statutory Council on Higher Education, said Ms Badsha.

Some education planners believe that even a predicted growth to 650 000 students by the year 2001 is unrealistic. They back this with figures of plummeting student enrolments at several historically black universities.

They maintain the trend will be for white enrolments at public institutions to drop further and say research is needed to determine where these students are going.

(54) *After 12/5/99*



THE NATIONAL EDUCATION REPORT

# Learning about change

**W**HILE the numbers of black students are increasing in the higher education system, there is a corresponding decline in the numbers of white students.

This is one of the trends outlined in a report released this week by the Department of Education, "Higher Educational Institutional Plans: An Overview of the First Planning Phase".

This report marks an important step in implementing the new policy and regulatory framework contained in White Paper 3 ("A programme for the Transformation of Higher Education", 1997) and the Higher Education Act (1997).

The new policy and legislative framework signals a break with the fragmentation, inequalities and inefficiencies of the past and seeks to develop a higher education system that is planned, governed and funded as a single, national coordinated system.

The primary purpose of planning is to ensure that the higher education system achieves the transformation objectives set out in the White Paper; that there is coherence in the provision of higher education at the national level; and that limited resources are used efficiently and effectively.

The planning framework revolves around the development of national and institutional-based three-year "rolling" plans.

Higher education institutions were requested last August to develop three-year "rolling" plans for the first planning phase. Institutions were asked to focus on four key national priorities: size and shape; equity; efficiency; and inter-institutional cooperation.

In addition, departmental officials visited all institutions to discuss their three-year "rolling" plans. The visits provided an opportunity to clarify issues, raise mutual concerns and discuss general trends.

The focus of these discussions was the institution's identification of its areas of strength and location within the system.

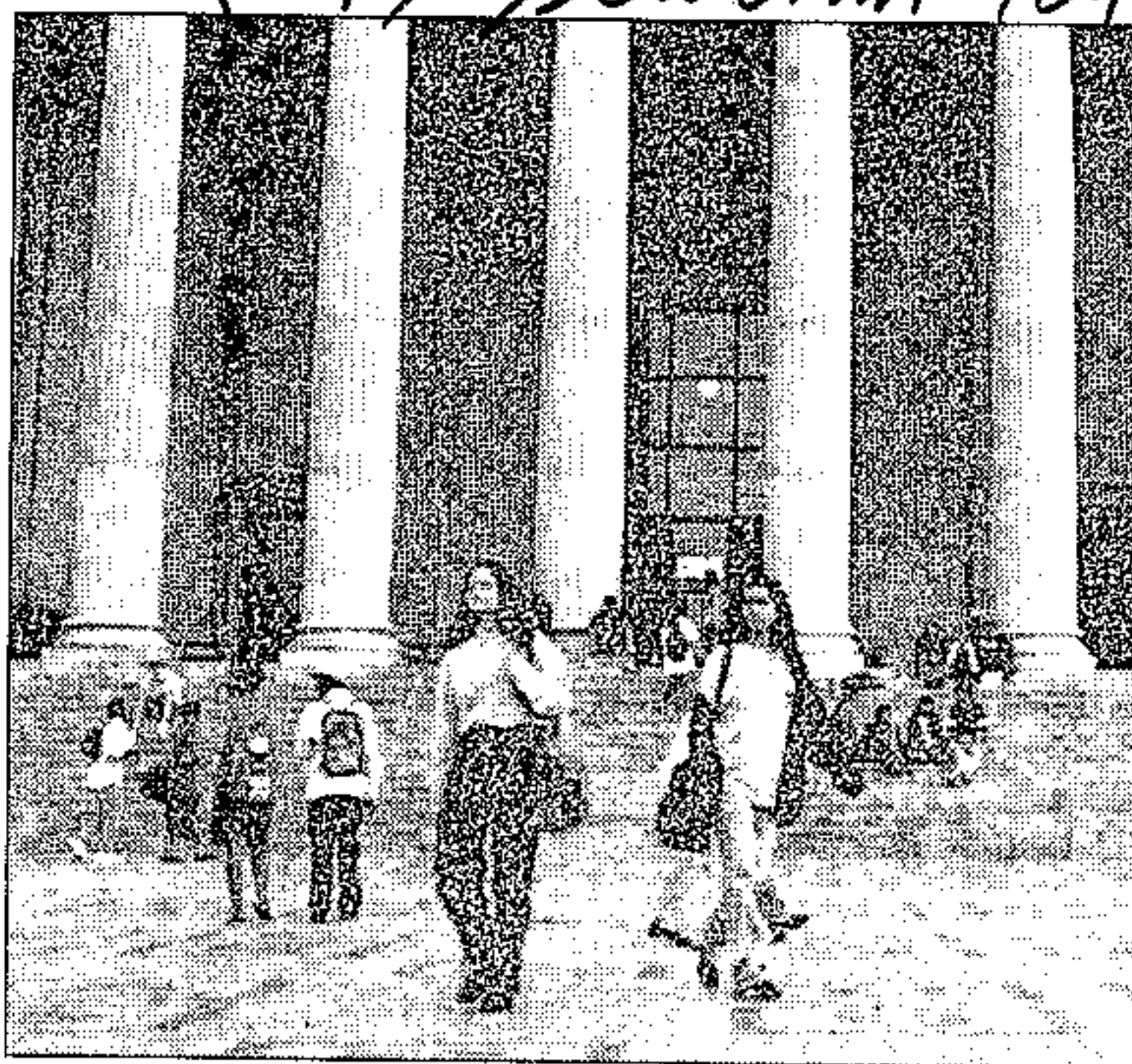
It is in this context that the Department prepared an overview report on the first planning phase. This report reflects on the outcomes of the planning process and identifies key trends and policy issues that flow from the institutional plans and subsequent institutional visits.

The report identifies a number of interesting trends with regard to size (student enrolments) and shape (student enrolments across different institutional and academic programme types).

With regard to enrolments, the system grew by just under 20 percent between 1993 and 1997. Based on information in the institutional plans, the system is projected to grow by a further 15 percent from 1997 to 2001.

However, given the general decrease in enrolments in the past two years, it is likely that

Planning for a higher education system is starting to pay off, and enrolment trends at universities and technikons reflect the changes, writes **John Mojapelo**



**The enrolment of students at universities increased by 8,6 percent between 1993 and 1997.**

the projections for 2001 are optimistic. It is hoped the next round of planning will give institutions an opportunity to revisit their projections in the context of declining enrolments.

Technikon enrolments grew faster than university enrolments – between 1993 and 1997, they increased by 46 percent, while during the same period university enrolments increased by 8.6 percent.

As far as the distribution of enrolments across the existing inter- and intra-institutional sectors is concerned, it should be noted that since 1993 they are:

- Decreasing in the Historically Black Universities (HBUs);
- Increasing in the Historically Afrikaans Universities (HAUs);
- Remaining steady in the Historically English Universities (HEUs);
- Initially increasing from 1993 to 1997 and thereafter remaining steady in the Historically Black Technikons (HBTs);
- Increasing in the Historically White Technikons (HWTs); and
- Decreasing at the University of South Africa and remaining steady at Technikon SA.

The reasons for the changing distribution of enrolments are not clear and require further investigation.

The report also identifies some interesting trends with regard to staff and student equity.

With regard to student equity, the demographic composition of the student body is beginning to resemble the demographic realities of the broader society more closely.

In terms of projected enrolments, the overall proportion of black students will increase from 69 percent in 1997 to 73 percent in 2001.

More specifically, in the case of African students, their overall proportion increased from 41 percent in 1993 to 57 percent in 1997, and is planned to be 60 percent in 2001. The growth of African students is primarily taking place in the HAUs and the HWTs.

However, the report notes that in the case of the HAUs, a large part of the growth has been in distance education and part-time programmes.

Also, the growth in black student numbers has been accompanied by a decline in white student enrolments.

While student demographics have altered substantially, the same cannot be said in the case of staff equity. Employment equity remains a major problem, with little progress in the past few years. The majority of permanent academic and professional staff remain white and male.

Institutions have highlighted that the major problem they face is their inability to compete in the labour market with the public and private sectors in terms of salaries and conditions of service.

One of the key issues that will facilitate the development of a single, coordinated system of higher education is the need for greater inter-institutional collaboration, particularly at a regional level.

Collaboration is seen as important in reducing programme duplication, building capacity and enhancing responsiveness to regional and national needs.

These are just some of the key trends highlighted in the report. The outcomes of the first planning phase represent an important milestone in the transformation of the higher education system in forging a dialogue and partnership between the Department and institutions, leading to a more accountable and responsive higher education system.

*(The author is chief director of the Department of Education's communication and liaison services.)*

# SA could face a skills shortage

ART 13/5/99 (54)

## Slow growth in tertiary education

**LINDA VERGNANI**  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

**With South Africa's higher education system growing far more slowly than previously predicted, the country may experience a future shortage of graduates in key areas.**

This warning comes from Professor Saleem Badat, director of the Education Policy Unit at the University of the Western Cape.

He said if South Africa achieved the predicted 3% growth in the economy it was "likely to experience skills shortages in particular areas like information technology, engineering and other more technological areas".

The slow growth in the tertiary sector "is also cause for concern in terms of the equity issue, in terms of the Government's commitment to increase participation by historically disadvantaged social groups".

His comments follow the release of a Government report which showed that by 2001 there will be 650 000 students enrolled in public universities and technikons rather than the previously projected figure of 1,1 million.

The report, issued by the Department of Education, shows major shifts in enrolment patterns with student numbers dwindling at historically black institutions and increasing at Afrikaans universities and previously white technikons.

The report is an overview of three-year rolling plans submitted to the department by 36 universities and technikons. It will be used by the department to help plan and reshape the higher education system and to implement a new funding formula. This will be done in consultation with the statutory Council on Higher Education.

Key findings in the report include:

- Rapid growth rate of 46% in technikon enrolments in the four years up to 1997 as against 9% in universities.

- Major changes in the racial composition of the student body, with the overall percentage of black students expected to increase from 69% of the total enrolment in 1997 to 73% in 2001; and

- A corresponding decline in white student enrolments from 31% of the total in 1997 to an expected 27% in 2001.

White students are moving to private education institutions or may be emigrating. The report says this drop has "implications for the financial

stability of the higher education system as white students represent a stable core of fee-paying students ..."

Says Nasima Badsha, deputy director-general of higher education: "We are obviously worried about losing students from the public sector. Clearly there is a decline in the number of white students and we are concerned to know where they are going. However, the rightful increase in black student numbers in the system is long overdue.

"I think it is very important for the public higher education sector to remain accessible to all South Africans and we would want a higher education system that will reflect the diversity of the country."

Professor Wieland Gevers, senior deputy vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, says the growth in black student numbers is entirely what one would expect on demographic grounds.

"The 'slump' in white student numbers may reflect a complex set of determinants like emigration of school-leavers, movement to private providers, other alternatives selected in career choice (direct entry to job market), and demographic equilibrium. This has not happened at UCT, which continues to have a healthy mixture of applicants and enrolled students from all sections of the population, including white students."

He added: "The emphasis on quality improvement in the strategic plans of the higher education institutions, combined with the introduction of a quality assurance system, will blunt the effect of the slow-down on national personpower resources.

"So, in my view, more people with worthwhile qualifications will graduate from the system in spite of the smaller intake."

Professor Badat said the report highlighted the "huge variation" in the ability of institutions to do strategic planning.

Producing rolling plans would compel institutions to plan strategies and market themselves better. This was essential with increasing competition from the private higher education sector. Public institutions should realise they no longer had "a captive pool of students".

Professor Badat, who is also chief executive of the Council on Higher Education, said the council had set up a special task group to study the report and give feedback.

# SA could face a skills shortage

ART 13/5/99 (54)

## Slow growth in tertiary education

**LINDA VERGNANI**  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

**With South Africa's higher education system growing far more slowly than previously predicted, the country may experience a future shortage of graduates in key areas:**

This warning comes from Professor Saleem Badat, director of the Education Policy Unit at the University of the Western Cape.

He said if South Africa achieved the predicted 3% growth in the economy it was "likely to experience skills shortages in particular areas like information technology, engineering and other more technological areas".

The slow growth in the tertiary sector "is also cause for concern in terms of the equity issue, in terms of the Government's commitment to increase participation by historically disadvantaged social groups".

His comments follow the release of a Government report which showed that by 2001 there will be 650 000 students enrolled in public universities and technikons rather than the previously projected figure of 1,1 million.

The report, issued by the Department of Education, shows major shifts in enrolment patterns with student numbers dwindling at historically black institutions and increasing at Afrikaans universities and previously white technikons.

The report is an overview of three-year rolling plans submitted to the department by 36 universities and technikons. It will be used by the department to help plan and reshape the higher education system and to implement a new funding formula. This will be done in consultation with the statutory Council on Higher Education.

Key findings in the report include:

■ Rapid growth rate of 46% in technikon enrolments in the four years up to 1997 as against 9% in universities.

■ Major changes in the racial composition of the student body, with the overall percentage of black students expected to increase from 69% of the total enrolment in 1997 to 73% in 2001; and

■ A corresponding decline in white student enrolments from 31% of the total in 1997 to an expected 27% in 2001.

White students are moving to private education institutions or may be emigrating. The report says this drop has "implications for the financial

stability of the higher education system as white students represent a stable core of fee-paying students ..."

Says Nasima Badsha, deputy director-general of higher education: "We are obviously worried about losing students from the public sector. Clearly there is a decline in the number of white students and we are concerned to know where they are going. However, the rightful increase in black student numbers in the system is long overdue.

"I think it is very important for the public higher education sector to remain accessible to all South Africans and we would want a higher education system that will reflect the diversity of the country."

Professor Wieland Gevers, senior deputy vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, says the growth in black student numbers is entirely what one would expect on demographic grounds.

"The 'slump' in white student numbers may reflect a complex set of determinants like emigration of school-leavers, movement to private providers, other alternatives selected in career choice (direct entry to job market), and demographic equilibrium. This has not happened at UCT, which continues to have a healthy mixture of applicants and enrolled students from all sections of the population, including white students."

He added: "The emphasis on quality improvement in the strategic plans of the higher education institutions, combined with the introduction of a quality assurance system, will blunt the effect of the slow-down on national manpower resources.

"So, in my view, more people with worthwhile qualifications will graduate from the system in spite of the smaller intake."

Professor Badat said the report highlighted the "huge variation" in the ability of institutions to do strategic planning.

Producing rolling plans would compel institutions to plan strategies and market themselves better. This was essential with increasing competition from the private higher education sector. Public institutions should realise they no longer had "a captive pool of students".

Professor Badat, who is also chief executive of the Council on Higher Education, said the council had set up a special task group to study the report and give feedback.

# German software test at UCT

(54) BD 13/5/99

**Melanie Sergeant-Haape**

MUNICH — SAP has chosen the University of Cape Town (UCT) as a pilot site for two new software systems geared to enhance levels of accountability and efficiency in institutions worldwide.

The group recently launched the applications: one for universities and research institutions; and the other for the broader public sector and nongovernmental organisations.

With the help of pilot sites at UCT and a handful of other universities and research institutions worldwide, SAP co-chairman and CEO Henning Kagermann says the new Higher Education and Research and IQ-CAMPUS systems will help higher-education institutions be more responsive and service-oriented.

“These institutions are being pushed

to provide higher levels of service to their students, and this software handles back-office processes like fund and staff management, materials management and a host of others, integrating these with front-office functions like student application and registration through to fee administration.”

The software also has facilities for students, allowing them to link in over the internet when they need to order study material, apply for grants or obtain other information.

For the public sector, the HR Funds and Position Management software is seen as having particular relevance for SA by optimising the allocation of funds and human resources.

According to SAP's public sector industry business unit, UCT is a pilot customer for this product.

FINANCE WEEK

AS ONE JOURNALIST SAID TO THE OTHER

Former FM editor-at-large David Gleason, whose *Torque* column is a regular FM feature, has come under fire from another former FM editor-at-large, Deon Basson. The battle, so far one-sided, heated up when Basson in an advertisement in *Business Day*, drew readers' attention to the Internet Website where he sets out to document Gleason's role in the sale of the magazine *Finance Week* — and its subscribers — to Naspers, and the liquidation of Finance Week (Pty) Ltd, the company that was the proprietor of the magazine.

The liquidation account revealed accumulated losses of more than R18m and assets of just under R1m.

Basson asks who received the R10m paid for the *Finance Week* title and were creditors of Finance Week (Pty) Ltd prejudiced? He argues that the liquidation of this relatively small company is of interest because Gleason and his co-director, Nigel Bruce, former FM and FW editor, now a parliamentary candidate for the DP, "who both are or had been directors of both companies — Finance Week Holdings and Finance Week — are or had been high-profile financial journalists and public figures"

Basson goes on to say that financial journalists "tell the world how to run their businesses and tell them unashamedly what they are doing wrong... we, as financial journalists, when running our own businesses, should be exposed to the same scrutiny as any other company director or company executive".

Gleason comments: "The matter's in the hands of a liquidator. No creditor will be prejudiced in favour of others. Basson is unhealthily obsessed about this issue."

Ben Temkin



AFRIKANERS

SEEKING A SAFE ACADEMIC HAVEN

On 14/5/99 in Oudtshoorn last weekend, a group of Afrikaans intellectuals sat down to devise survival strategies for their language.

The idea — sparked, some say, by Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert during the Klein Karoo Na-

sionale Kunstefees — is to form a private, single-medium Afrikaans university in the *dorp* as a haven for the language.

Founding committee member Breyten Breytenbach stresses that the intention "is not to head for the hills to start a little enclave". It is to establish an Afrikaans academy or university school that will allow scholars to pursue their studies in their mother tongue and provide practical higher education opportunities to the largely Afrikaans-speaking population of the central Cape.

"It's not a political thing. It goes right over the spectrum, from left to right," says Breytenbach, adding that Jakes Gerwel, Neville Alexander and Franklin Sonn are among those

who have "expressed curiosity and interest in the idea".

One enthusiast is political analyst Hermann Giliomee, who says the inevitable result of Afrikaans universities moving towards dual-medium instruction is that "the stronger language pushes out the weaker language, which ultimately becomes marginalised".

But he would rather see Stellenbosch University and the University of the Western Cape as singularly Afrikaans than the creation of the proposed institution in Oudtshoorn.

Oudtshoorn attorney and hotelier Nic Barrow has earmarked Oudtshoorn's under-utilised teacher training college for the academy. The FM wishes the organisers luck in persuading government to make the buildings available. Given two rebels of yesterday are behind the idea, they just might.

Claire Bissek

MIH LIMITED

HOME BOYS MAKE GOOD IN CHINA

Mindport, the technology subsidiary of pay-TV group MIH, has beaten off global competition, including a bid by Australian media magnate Rupert Murdoch, to land a significant contract from China Central Television (CCTV) to run a trial direct-to-home satellite service.

The proposed service is similar to DStv, the digital satellite television service broadcast to Africa from Johannesburg. Mindport's deal with CCTV involves the supply of broadcast technology and integration services for various technologies.

Because of the way the deal has been structured, Mark Sorour, director of investor relations at MIH, says a value cannot be pegged on it. But the deal is potentially worth tens of millions of dollars to MIH.

In China 300m households have TV sets, three times the size of the US market.

MIH beat nine competitors to win the CCTV business, including News Corp's NDS, Via Access, the technology arm of France Telecom, and US-based General Instruments.

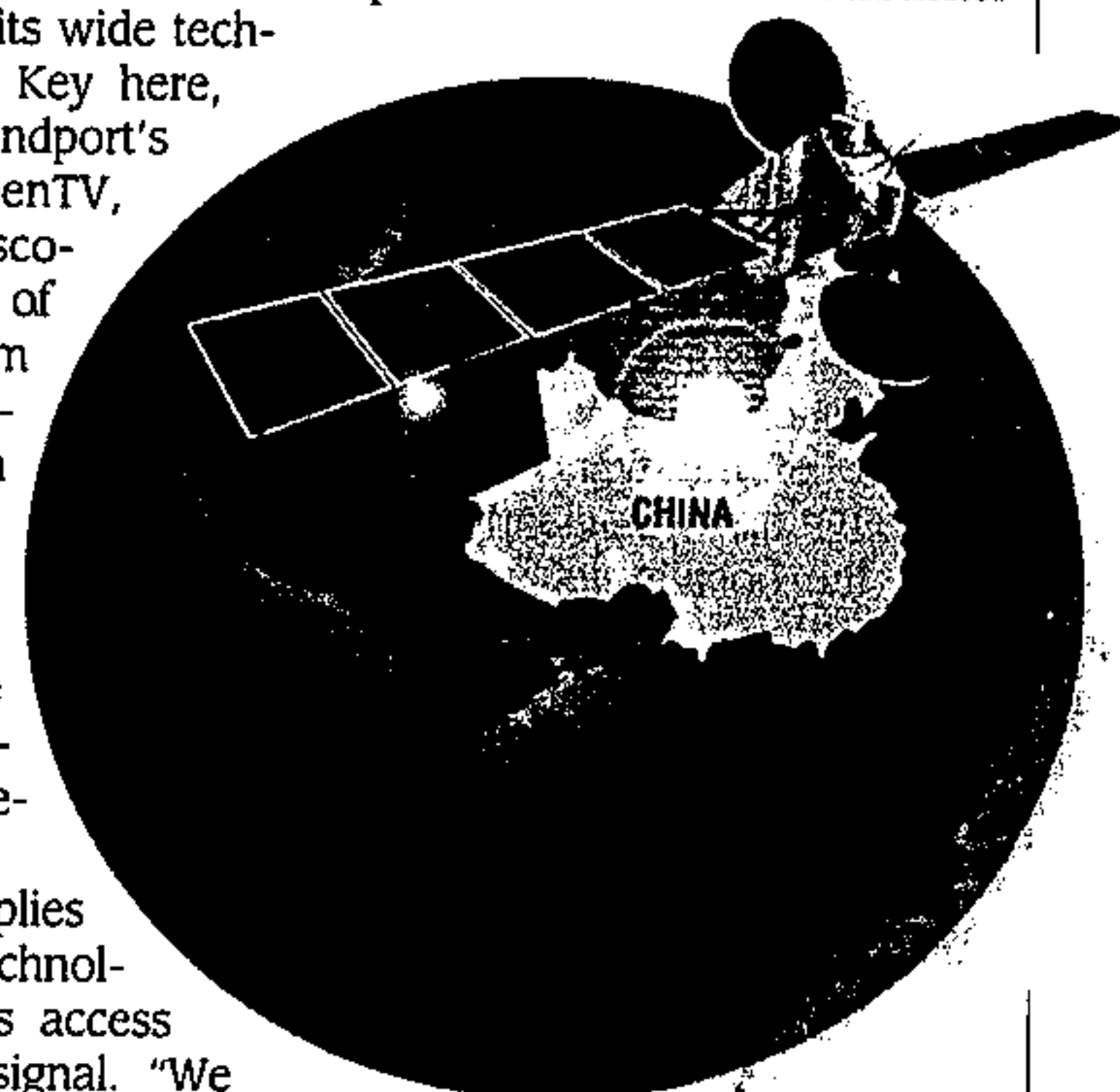
The SA group secured the deal because of its wide technology offering. Key here, perhaps, was Mindport's 80% stake in OpenTV, a San Francisco-based developer of operating system software for set-top boxes used in interactive television. Sun Microsystems, the developer of the popular Java platform, holds the remaining 20%.

Mindport supplies the encryption technology that provides access to a broadcast signal. "We have a software integration

arm that integrates the various components," Sorour says.

CCTV last year put 10 000 decoders in homes in China as part of the trial. It's not clear how long the trial will last or whether the satellite service will be adopted by CCTV and the Chinese government. With a foot in on the ground floor, however, MIH has reason to be pleased.

Duncan McLeod



# Observatory to get university

Catholic institution has wide support

**STAFF REPORTER**

**S**outhern Africa's first independent Catholic university, St Augustine University, will open its doors to the first intake of post-graduate students in July this year.

The university, in Observatory, Johannesburg, enjoys the full support and backing of the international network of Catholic universities, as well as the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Support has also been received from other churches and religious communities, among them the Church of the Province of South Africa and the Chief Rabbi of Johannesburg.

University head, Professor Edith Raidt, says the idea of founding a Catholic university for southern Africa was first mooted in 1993 when a group of Catholic academics, clergy and business people explored its viability and set in motion a process that will see the Minister of Education approve its status as an accredited, private university later this month.

"While our long-term aim is to develop into a full university offering undergraduate and post-graduate studies, St Augustine will initially offer students the opportunity to read towards the Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy degrees," she said. "Over time, we believe the University will serve as a community that studies and teaches disciplines necessary for authentic human develop-

ment and the flourishing of individuals and society."

St Augustine University, while unashamedly Catholic in ethos, does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed or gender.

It is committed to academic freedom, as well as to South Africa retaining its reputation for excellent tertiary education, and will thus set and maintain standards of an uncompromisingly high level that ensure that its graduates are valued and recognised anywhere in the world.

The board of directors of the University is headed by chairperson, Father Graham Rose, and includes Catholic

## Committed to academic freedom

academics and committed Christians from the private and public sectors. Academically, the University's local complement of lecturers will be enhanced - through the international network of Catholic universities - by a wide pool of eminent visiting academics from, among others, the University of Notre Dame in the USA, the University of Leuven in Belgium, and the University of Koblenz-Landau in Germany.

The inaugural two-year Master of Philosophy degree, starting in July and running right through to June 2001, is offered in the fields of Applied Ethics, Philosophy and Theology.

# Violence hits UWC poll

SRC candidate beaten, found lying in pool of blood

MARTHA QUMBA  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ARG 19/5/99

**The University of the Western Cape's election for a Students Representative Council has been plagued with tension between contesting candidates, one of whom is in hospital after allegedly being assaulted while putting up posters.**

Independent candidate Felix Keva, 29, was found lying in the toilets in a pool of blood on Sunday evening and had to be taken for treatment to Tygerberg Hospital, where he is in intensive care.

Polling for the election was completed yesterday, and the results are expected within the next few days.

Some students said tension between candidates from various student structures started when candidates were presenting their manifestos last week.

There has been tension between the South African Student Congress, United Student Front (a formation of Pan African Student Movement of Azania, Azanian Student Congress) and Socialist Student Action Committee.

Former SRC general secretary Wanga Sigila said: "It is terrible. Tensions among students from different structures are very high, but this is an extreme case.

"Every morning Sasco posters are torn down.

"This has damaged UWC's

image," Mr Sigila said.

Witness Ludina Makrowu said: "I saw him (Felix) walking towards the student centre with two guys whom I do not know but I can remember their faces."

SRC co-ordinator Vincent van Breda, called in to monitor the election, said: "I do not have clear facts around this. These are only alleged circumstances.

"I only heard that he was found in a toilet and was taken to hospital.

"This incident will not have an impact on the SRC election, but rather on a human level.

"The process is going smoothly and it is important to maintain the integrity of this process," said Mr Van Breda.



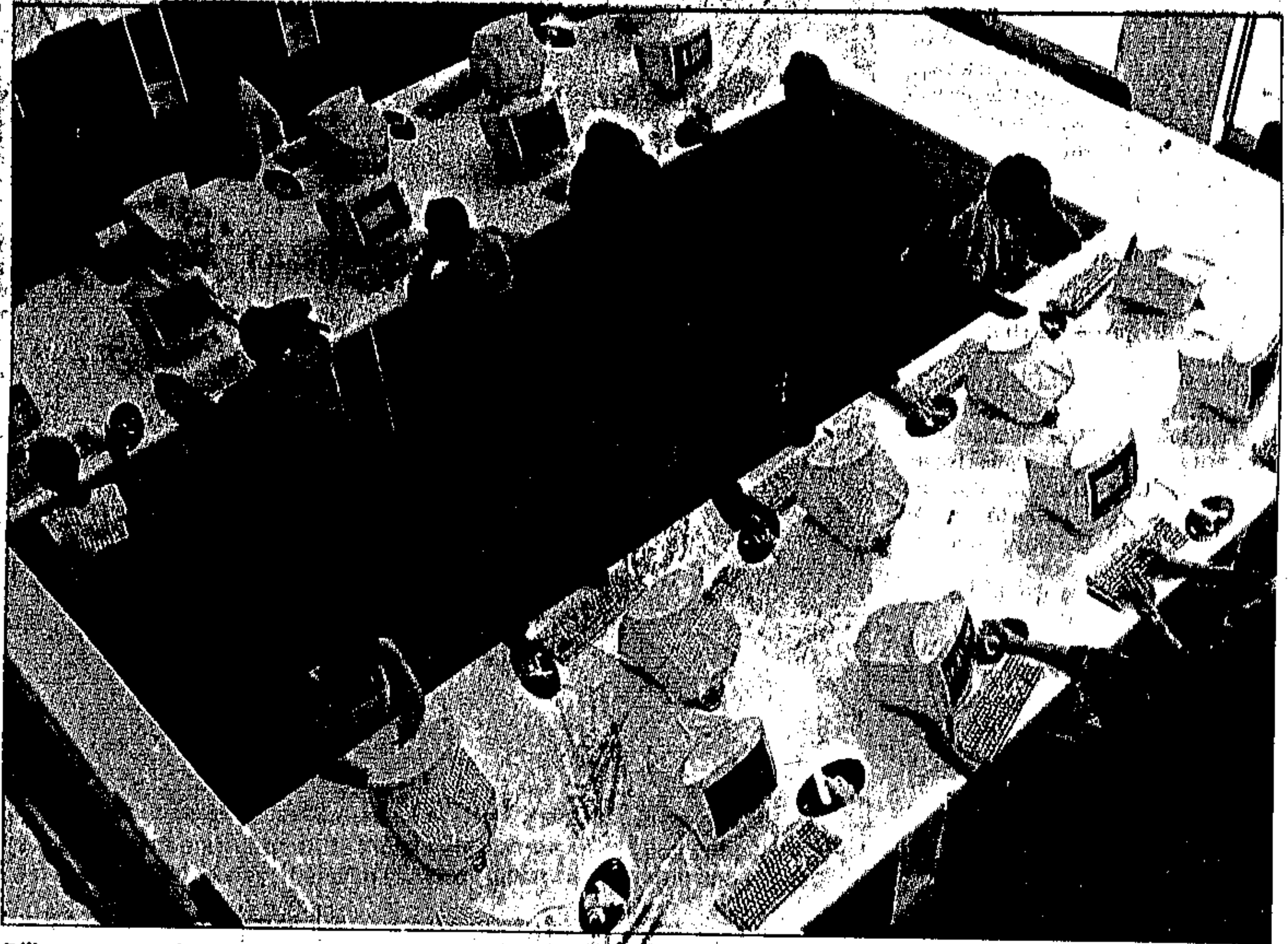
# Aussie university to open in Sandton

Degrees at Bond's SA campus will be the same as those offered Down Under and be of shorter duration because of intensive semesters and fewer holidays, writes **Edwin Naidu**

South African students wishing to obtain an international qualification do not have to contemplate studying Down Under when Australia's most successful private tertiary institution, Bond University, opens up in the heart of Sandton, north of Johannesburg.

The South African version of Queensland's Bond University is being built on the expansive premises of the ADvTech Group's Global School of Business in Benmore, Sandton. It will open next year offering undergraduate degrees in commerce, humanities and social sciences and information technology. The Benmore campus can take up to 2 500 students.

The university completes the learning package offered by ADvtech Education Holdings Limited (ADvED) with the Crawford Preparatory and Crawford College close by. ADvED chairperson Brian Buckham said the group, which also runs Varsity College as well as recruitment agencies, would provide management and infrastruc-



Diligence ... students at the Global School of Business in Benmore, working in the computer lab. The new university will become part of the business school next year.

“  
There's no  
graffiti on  
the walls  
”

ture and marketing support services to Bond University.

The university will be responsible for academic standards, examinations, curriculums and staff recruitment. The degrees will be the same as those offered in Australia, with minor modifications to meet local requirements, such as accounting accreditation.

ADvED director Anton Jordaan said masters and doctoral degrees will be introduced after the undergraduate degrees have begun.

“Our application for registration has been accepted by the Department of Education subject to accreditation by the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA).

“Our courses are all designed to conform to the requirements of SAQA, and will be accredited internationally through the status held by Bond University, Australia,” he said.

One of the key features of the degrees on offer is the structuring of the six semesters over 24 months.

“Students still attend the normal six semesters of 14 weeks each, but have reduced vacation periods.

“The net result is that students graduate sooner and enter the marketplace earlier,” Jordaan said.

Bond University has already been active in South Africa, working with the ADvED over the past few years through an MBA programme.

Bond University's Professor Ray Byson said the university began 10 years ago when a “bunch of acade-

mics” came together to come up with learning programmes that made a difference, with the emphasis on small tutorials and group learning.

Bond University South Africa would not be a massive university but it is tailored for smaller groups and individuals whose growth we want to see,” he said.

“There is no graffiti on the walls of Bond University in Australia because we build relationships and know all our students,” he said.

1 Star 20/5/99  
Universities' salary  
packages probed

(54)  
BY EDWIN NAIDU

The Heath Special Investigating Unit has asked the South African University Vice-Chancellors' Association to supply information on the salary packages earned by the heads of the country's 21 tertiary institutions.

Spokesperson Guy Rich said the unit was asked to investigate the reasonableness of a R1-million package offered to University of the North vice-chancellor Professor Biki Minyuku.

Rich confirmed that the unit had asked Sauvca, which is the umbrella body for vice-chancellors, for information in March because it was unable to proceed with the probe into Minyuku's package without comparative figures. The unit is still awaiting the information.

Last year Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu called for more transparency from university heads, but to no avail. A survey from *The Star* in June last year over vice-chancellors' salaries yielded just one response from the country's 21 universities.

# SRC members rip off fresher's ball

**Evidence wa ka Ngobeni**

**T**hree student leaders at the University of Venda (Univen) may face criminal charges after it emerged they stole tens of thousands of rands from student coffers.

The three student representative council (SRC) officials have been suspended from the organisation pending investigations into abuse of office and fraud.

Univen's SRC representative confirmed this week that SRC president Mpho Sekomeng, his deputy Victor Mokogeto, and project officer, Mathodzi Moshoe, have been barred from participating in student activities.

The SRC alleges that the three, who were charged with arranging a fresher's ball in May, defrauded the university of R77 000. They allegedly made out false orders for stage and sound equipment, and for musicians from a Johannesburg company.

A requisition was made to the SRC for R500 000 to cover the cost of the party.

SRC treasurer Derrick Maluleke said after an investigation it found that the three asked the company to charge a higher price for the equipment and arranged to receive the difference.

Maluleke said the company billed the SRC for R66 000 when the normal price for the equipment used at the party usually amounts to R33 000.

Univen normally suspends or expels students found guilty of misconduct. But due to the seriousness of the allegations against the three, Maluleke said the university disciplinary council may recommend that criminal charges be laid. The three have not yet appeared before the disciplinary hearing.

The ball is held annually to welcome new students. Last year the students demanded 30 cans of beer each at the bash. The university had budgeted only R355 000 for the ceremony. Students caused more than R500 000 worth of damage.

(54) MTC 21-27/5/99

# Campus joy as SRC chief is elected

NATALIE KAMMIES

(54) ST(CM) 23/5/99

THE University of the Western Cape took a step towards a more stable student environment when opposition organisations on campus yesterday endorsed the election of a new SRC president.

There were jubilant scenes when new president Mava Scott, on crutches after a car crash, was named by university officials on Thursday.

Standing on a South African Students Congress ticket, the final-year law student made the issue of university fees the main focus of his campaign.

Speaking after his election, he committed the SRC to greater co-operation with other student structures. He said the SRC would help negotiate with the university administration on behalf of students who could not meet their debt repayments, as stipulated in an agreement between the outgoing SRC and the administration.

About a third of the 9 000 students voted, electing 11 Sasco members and one from the Pan Africanist Student Movement of Azania.

The elections went peacefully apart from an assault on independent candidate Felix Keva last week.

Student organisations said they accepted the new SRC and that the election was democratic and transparent.

Michael Canham, a Student League member and spokesman for a rebel interim SRC that had protested against the constitutionality of the previous SRC, said his group would co-operate with the new SRC. But they would criticise the SRC if they found it was not making efforts to strike a better deal for poorer students.

Chris Swepu, a spokesman for the Azanian Students Convention, said: "We welcome the new SRC and hail the manner in which the committee which ran the election did it. We will continue to support them as an organisation."

He said his student body wanted the new SRC to call a meeting to review an agreement struck between the outgoing SRC and the administration.

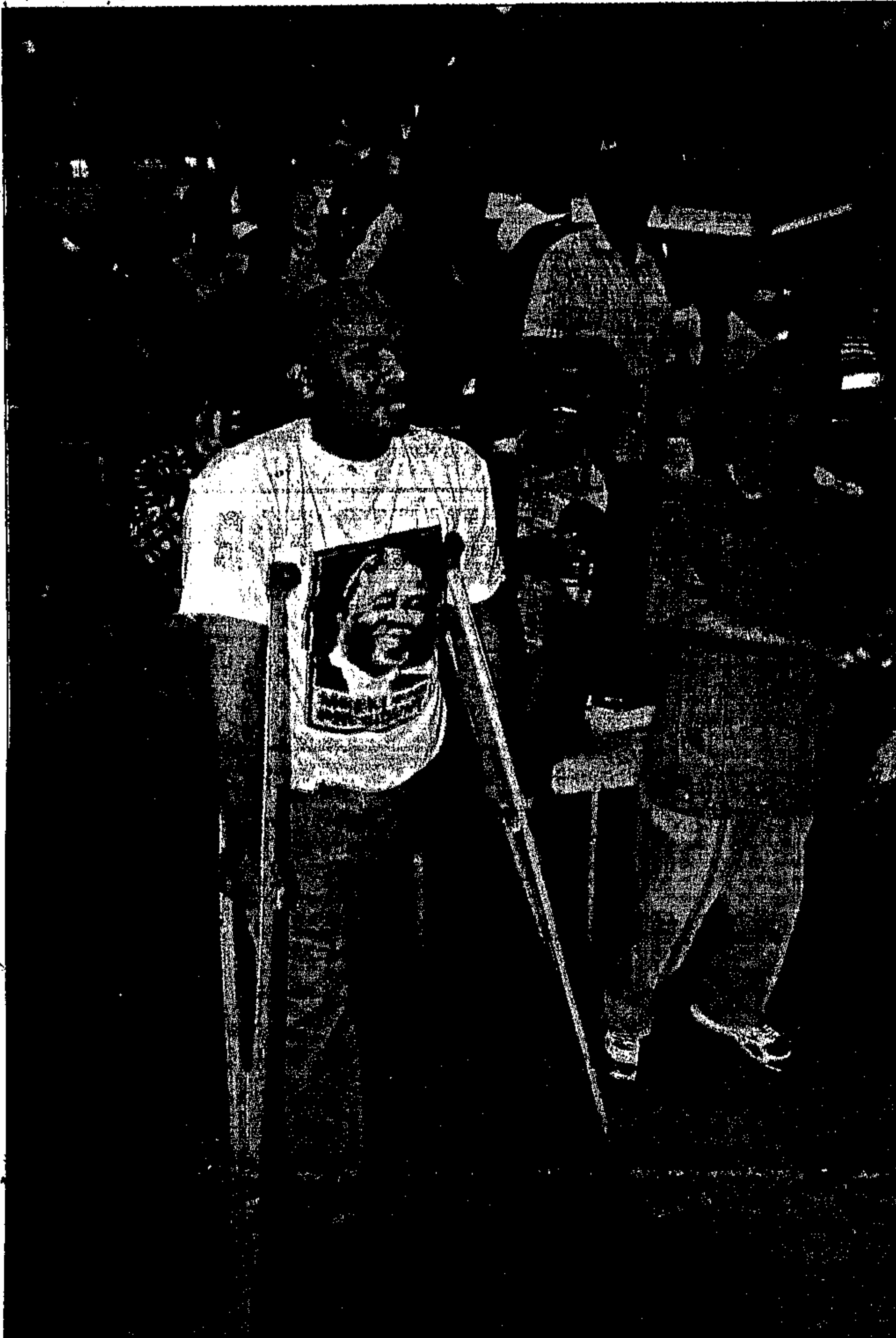
One bone of contention between the rebel group and the previous SRC was a financial agreement which threatened the academic future of thousands of students who were behind with their fees.

Scott said this week: "We have always encouraged students to pay their debts and have become unpopular, but we will not change that. We must contribute towards the sustainability of UWC."

However, the university should also admit and sustain a number of disadvantaged students, he said, adding that the SRC and the university administration had devised fund-raising strategies and would implement a project to encourage business to employ struggling students so they could pay.

The SRC will on Friday discuss issues like finding alternative funding for struggling students with the Minister of Education, Sibusiso Bengu.

● The other students elected to the SRC were: Unathi Bongco, Sandi Mbu, Andy Matiwuane, Palesa Kadi, Nandi Zonela, Xolile Majola, Allister Davids, Anneline Blauw, Bella Msenyana, Pheli Yanda and Tiger Mgoqi of Paso.



**MISTER PRESIDENT:** Students celebrate as Mava Scott is chosen as the president of the new Students Representative Council at the University of the Western Cape  
Picture: KIM LUDBROOK

# Is R1-m reasonable pay?

(74)  
ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

ARG 24/5/99

Johannesburg – The Heath Special Investigative Unit has asked the SA University Vice-Chancellors' Association to supply information on the salary packages earned by the heads of the country's 21 tertiary institutions.

Spokesman Guy Rich said the unit was asked to investigate the reasonableness of a R1-million package offered to University of the North vice-chancellor Professor Biki Minyuku.

Mr Rich confirmed that the unit had asked Sauvca, which is the

umbrella body for vice-chancellors, for information in March because it was unable to proceed with the probe into Prof Minyuku's package without comparative figures.

The unit is still waiting for the information.

Last year Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu called for more transparency from university heads – but to no avail.

A survey of vice-chancellors' salaries last June by The Star, the Cape Argus's sister newspaper in Johannesburg, yielded just one response from the country's 21 universities.

# CAPE ARGUS ISSUES

# SA's difficult road to non-racialism

(514) ARGUS 24/5/99  
 Intellectual's critical paper sparks lively debate on the country's quest for unity



Is non-racialism a pipe-dream? And, if not, how do we achieve it? Special Writer MICHAEL MORRIS reports on a debate at the University of Cape Town spurred by a contentious, critical paper by leading left-wing intellectual Neville Alexander

A century ago, writer Olive Schreiner described a "common South African condition" - a productive co-existence - which is beguilingly relevant today.

"South African unity," she wrote, "is not the dream of a visionary, it is not even the forecast of genius ... (but) a condition the practical necessity for which is daily and hourly forced upon us by the common needs of life: it is the one path open to us."

On this depended "the production of anything great and beautiful by our people as a whole".

But Schreiner wondered: "How from our political states and our discordant races, can a great, a healthy, a united, an organised nation be formed?"

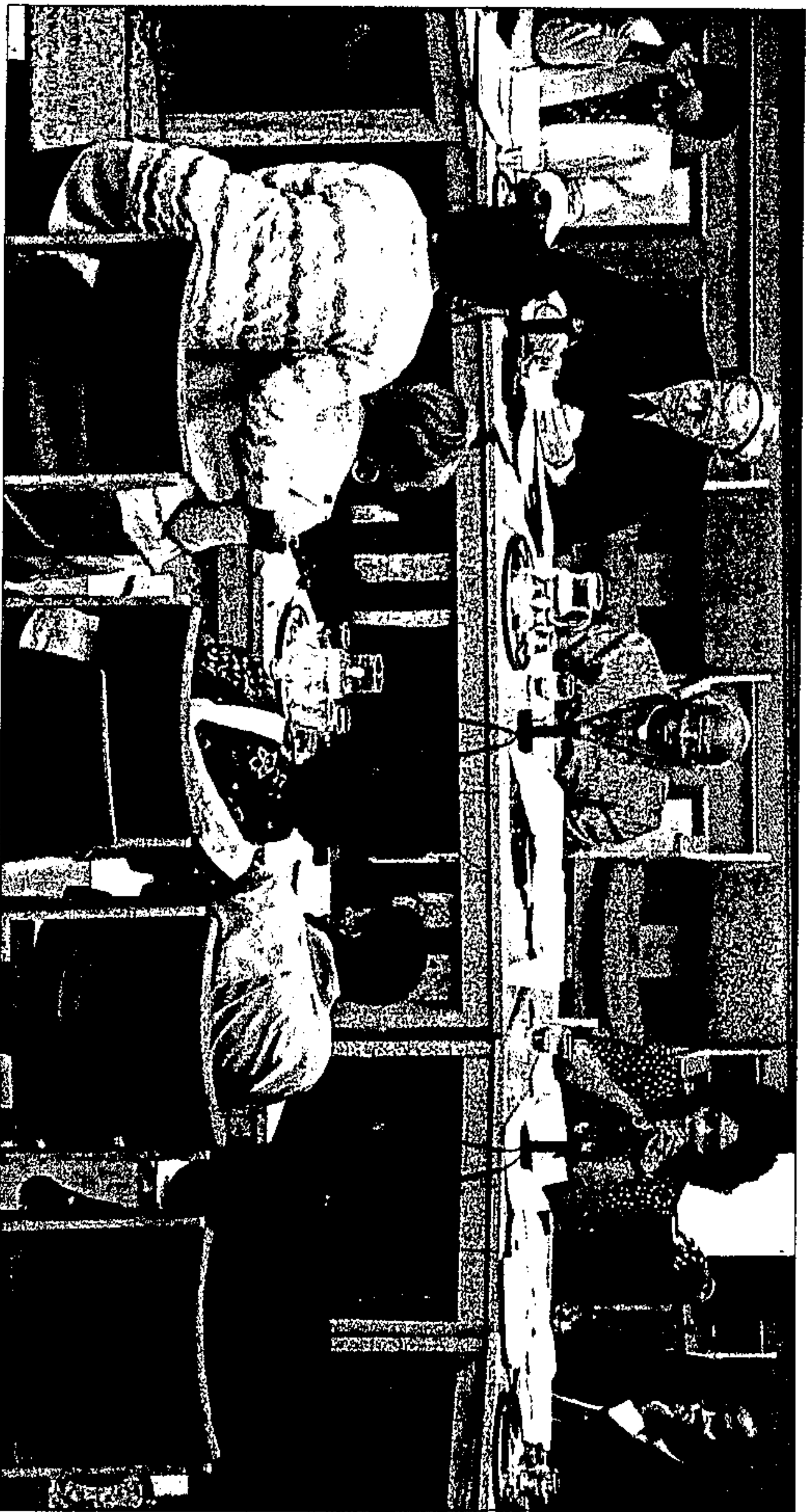
Schreiner's "clairvoyant vision", as Neville Alexander calls it, comes at the end of his paper, prompting this pointed reminder: "At the end of the century she refers to, this question, clearly, remains on the agenda."

Schreiner's proposition - well ahead of its time - remains unrealised, even by the Mandela "miracle", the tortuously negotiated transition, and the first necessarily imperfect years of a people's democracy: this, in essence, is Dr Alexander's starting point.

Before a packed university lecture theatre, he and a panel of academics and other influential figures tested its merits.

It's significant the debate forms part of the University of Cape Town's new dean of humanities Whitot James's determination to span the distance between the academy on the hill and the metropolis sprawled below it.

And it was a debate notable for reflecting on a more refined level the straight talk - sometimes embittered, sometimes self-satisfied - of the shebeen, the dinner table, the bar, the sports club, the town hall.



Working towards reconciliation: Archbishop Desmond Tutu chairs the first hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in East London in 1996

ing certainties and probing alternatives: alternatives to the idea of a Rainbow Nation (he has suggested Garteep - Khot for the Orange River - as a homegrown metaphor that suggests many tributaries from catchments throughout the country, flowing together); to Gear; to the Truth Commission's version of reconciliation; to constitutional instruments he fears will entrench ethnicity and spawn conflict.

He's been so irritated by Tina - "There is no alternative" - that he has invented Themba - "There must be an alternative".

While giving "the benefit of the doubt to the leadership" whose commitment to a non-racial strategy was beyond question, he feared that "in the process there's a care-

complete for more resources, and the intersection of political interests and economic competition is fatal."

While the predisposition to finding solutions suggested South Africa would "transcend the kinds of divisions which lead to genocidal conflicts", this would not in itself guarantee a non-racial future.

As a start, "we have to eliminate the material gaps between the rich and the poor - crudely, between whites and blacks. If this is not done in a reasonable time, the possibility of a non-racial future is minimal."

He doubted the gap was closing much, not least because Gear was not delivering, and cautioned that "feelings of disappoint-

the hands of those who had it under apartheid."

The record of land restitution showed delivery was unlikely to satisfy the marginalised, and agriculture, mining and industry remained in the hands of white capital. That had to change.

Although black entrepreneurship was "succeeding within limits", this "does not lead to a radical improvement in race relations".

For aspirant black capitalists, being patriotic "is not ... being anti-colonialist". They were merely being "incorporated and brought on board". This would not change racial attitudes.

Dr Alexander also doubted the success

still in that phase ... toddlers in democracy's kindergarten."

And, on balance, the country was "moving in the direction of a non-racial future".

"It is terribly unfashionable to admit it, but I don't think we should be so contemptuous in chucking out the rainbow nation. I do not see it being replaced by anything else. And it gets us more attention than we could otherwise expect as a middling economy."

But Mahmood Mamman, the outspoken director of UCT's Centre for African Studies was less enamoured. He did not especially like Dr Alexander's "Garteep" suggestion - seeing it as merely "rainbow by another name" - but found nothing endearing about the "rainbow".

"The beneficiaries of rainbowism are by a large measure the beneficiaries of apartheid, to whom rainbowism has given a fresh lease on life, and some victims of apartheid. Rainbowism is too much of an embrace of our inherited inequalities."

Eradicating the racial legacy of colonialism depended on deracialisation, of which black empowerment was an agent. But it was "too narrow".

"It's black business empowerment, with a narrow stratum of shareholders whose apron strings are tied to the white bourgeoisie." Still, black empowerment was "an idea whose time has come".

"Anyone who thinks you can have a predominantly white bourgeoisie in a predominantly black country without upheaval should have their head examined."

Arguing that the Government was not driven by a "Bismarkian" conception of a single nation, but a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society, Naledi Pandor, deputy chairwoman of the National Council of Provinces, was confident racial myths would be dispelled in South Africa.

"We will, over time, provide concrete proof that while superiority is nothing but a myth," she said.

Even so, she saw no fault in constitutionally empowering "marginalised communities" to lever resources or recognition of rights.

Gender Commission chairwoman Joyce Piliso-Seroke cast a different light on the debate when she noted that one of South Africa's truly non-racial institutions was patriarchy.

Transformation depended on tackling gender, sex and class. And UCT vice-chair-

and hourly forced upon us by the commu-  
needs of life: it is the one path open to us.

On this depended "the production of  
anything great and beautiful by our people  
as a whole".

But Schreiner wondered: "How from  
our political states and our discordant  
races, can a great, a healthy, a united, an  
organised nation be formed?"

Schreiner's "clairvoyant vision", as  
Neville Alexander calls it comes at the end  
of his paper, prompting this pointed  
reminder: "At the end of the century she  
refers to, this question, clearly, remains on  
the agenda."

Schreiner's proposition - well ahead of  
its time - remains unrealised, even by the  
Mandela "miracle", the tortuously negoti-  
ated transition, and the first necessarily  
imperfect years of a people's democracy:  
this, in essence, is Dr Alexander's starting  
point.

Before a packed university lecture  
theatre, he and a panel of academics and  
other influential figures tested his merits.

It's significant the debate forms part of  
the University of Cape Town's new dean of  
humanities Wilnot James's determination  
to span the distance between the academy  
on the hill and the metropolis sprawled  
below it.

And it was a debate notable for reflect-  
ing on a more refined level the straight talk  
- sometimes embittered, sometimes self-  
satisfied - of the shebeen, the dinner table,  
the bar, the sports club, the taxi rank.

What is this transformation? What's it  
doing for us, and what for them? Like these  
discursive swoopings of thoughts and  
hopes, the university debate was inconclu-  
sive, but no less provocative for that.

"If you expect a rabble-raising tirade  
against the prevailing system," Dr Alexan-  
der began, "you will be disappointed."

Indeed he made the point that a "hunda-  
mental fact" of South African reality is  
(rather as Schreiner saw it) an "interdepen-  
dence" of people, so that, regardless of  
colour, language, religion and gender,  
South Africans "are necessarily disposed  
towards finding solutions".

Nevertheless, he insisted on question-

What is a political debate and how does  
one judge the winner, asks contributing  
editor **JC GAMEL**

# Talk-talk, talk-talk, or a worthwhile way of speaking to voters?

But who exactly is a debate win-  
ner, if one is looking from the out-  
side in and attempting to be uni-  
ased?

What is the defining characteris-  
tic of a political campaign debate? Is  
a debate at all necessary, and what  
kind of effect can a political debate  
have in a campaign?

A political campaign debate is  
perhaps best conceptualised as the  
joint appearance by two or more  
opposing candidates, who expound  
on their positions, with explicit and  
equitable provisions for refutation  
without interruption.

By far the most popular means of  
giving focus to political debates in  
South Africa has been through the  
use of topics. Topics provide focus

Working towards reconciliation Archbishop Desmond Tutu chairs the first hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in East London in 1996



ing certainties and probing alternatives:  
alternatives to the idea of a Rainbow  
Nation (he has suggested Gariep - Koi for  
the Orange River - as a homegrown  
metaphor that suggests many tributaries  
from catchments throughout the country,  
flowing together); to Gear; to the Truth  
Commission's version of reconciliation; to  
constitutional instruments he fears will  
entrench ethnicity and spawn conflict.

He's been so irritated by Thina - "There  
is no alternative" - that he has invented  
Themba - "There must be an alternative".  
While giving "the benefit of the doubt to  
the leadership" whose commitment to a  
non-racial strategy was beyond question, he  
feared that "in the process there's a care-  
less, even conscious continuation of the  
abuse and use of past social categories".

Referring to the "compromise" in the  
constitution which led to the establishment  
of the Commission for the Promotion and  
the Protection of the Rights of Cultural,  
Religious and Linguistic Communities, he  
warned that the country "may inadvertent-  
ly open the Pandora's box of ethnic - tribal  
- politics".

"If in the process, you concede a little  
finger to ethnic consciousness and divi-  
sion, as opposed to recognising differences  
... you open a Pandora's box ... of civil war  
eventually."  
"You are entrenching divisions, not dif-  
ferences, because ethnic communities will

compete for more resources, and the inter-  
section of political interests and economic  
competition is fatal."

While the predisposition to finding solu-  
tions suggested South Africa would "tran-  
scend the kinds of divisions which lead to  
genocidal conflicts", this would not in itself  
guarantee a non-racial future.

As a start, "we have to eliminate the  
material gaps between the rich and the  
poor - crudely, between whites and blacks.  
If this is not done in a reasonable time, the  
possibility of a non-racial future is mini-  
mal".  
He doubted the gap was closing much,  
not least because Gear was not delivering,  
and cautioned that "feelings of disappoint-  
ment are eating up millions of South  
Africans".

"The stark reality is that the (national  
political) settlement is based on an econom-  
ic status quo" which goes together "with  
hopes of economic growth, jobs and devel-  
opment."  
"Only an apologist would pretend that  
everything dreamed of has happened or is  
realisable."

The Government had every right to say  
it needed more time before being judged,  
but time "will run out quite soon".  
"The real situation is that hardly any  
change has taken place in the economy,  
and no fundamental change is to be expect-  
ed. The source of economic power is still in

the hands of those who had it under  
aparttheid."

The record of land restitution showed  
delivery was unlikely to satisfy the margi-  
nised, and agriculture, mining and indus-  
try remained in the hands of white capital.  
That had to change.

Although black entrepreneurship was  
"succeeding within limits", this "does not  
lead to a radical improvement in race rela-  
tions".  
For aspirant black capitalists, being  
patriotic "is not ... being anti-colonialist".  
They were merely being "incorporated and  
brought on board". This would not change  
racial attitudes.

Dr Alexander also doubted the success  
of the Truth Commission's goal of reconcil-  
iation, saying that in the absence of a  
blanket amnesty, "you create the impres-  
sion you are pardoning the perpetrators of  
the apartheid regime before the people".  
"It is false. It is sowing dragon's teeth,  
and it will take many years to remove the  
resentment among many people."

As it happened, the first to respond in  
the debate was Truth Commission deputy  
chairperson Alex Boraine.  
While affirming the "need for criti-  
cism", he differed sharply with Dr Alexan-  
der's view, emphasising successes and  
achievements since 1994.  
These included stability of government,  
the deliberate and comprehensive building

of institutions which reinforced the  
eschewing of government based on cult or  
personality: the sophisticated succession  
from Mandela to Mbeki; successful elec-  
tions; a constitution and Constitutional  
Court that were the envy of the world; and  
commissions for human rights, gender and  
youth which "can only give huge encour-  
agement to the development towards a non-  
racial South Africa".

He added: "We are not there yet, of  
course. It will take a long time, but if there  
are no institutions of this kind, there is no  
hope."  
It was clear the promises of 1994 were  
"unwise and unrealistic", and this had  
been acknowledged, but it was unrealistic  
to think "that in one generation you can  
overcome and overtake more than 300  
years of oppression and division".

Journalist Shaun Johnson, group edito-  
rial director of Independent Newspapers,  
made no bones about his optimism, and his  
belief in the rainbow metaphor.  
"I am an inveterate, incorrigible opti-  
mist" he admitted wryly. But he believed  
that saying South Africa "is not undergo-  
ing revolutionary systemic change in the  
economic sphere is not the same as saying  
society is undergoing no change".

The compromise that characterised the  
"armistice between African and Afrikaner  
nationalism prescribed broad parameters  
to what could and could not happen. We're

without being unduly restrictive.  
Moreover, topics generally include a  
sufficient variety of sub-issues to  
interest a large audience.

Voters often criticise debates for  
being nothing more than an oppor-  
tunity for image-manipulation by  
candidates.

Also that debates do not demon-  
strate or test many of the skills cen-  
tral to conduct in office: An ability to  
ask significant questions, a talent for  
securing sound advice, a disposition  
to set judiciously and a capacity to  
compromise without violating con-  
science or basic social principles.

Ideas must be trimmed to fit pre-  
set time limits. Thus stock answers  
are usually repeated and complex  
problems often simplified.

While debates are of course  
opportunities for image-manage-  
ment as well, it should not follow  
that such debate is by that very fact  
excessively manipulative.

After all, campaign debates are  
similar to job interviews and when  
somebody seeking employment  
wears his or her best suit or dress for  
the interview, attends more meticu-  
lously than usual to grooming needs,  
and demonstrates more poise, better  
listening habits and closer attention  
to what he or she says than usual,  
that person is not being unduly  
manipulative.

A number of arguments for politi-  
cal debates can be offered. For exam-  
ple, participation in debate demon-  
strates a commitment to discussing

the issues and solving problems, it  
increases parties' and candidates' re-  
sponsibilities for their claims, it  
reveals alternative views of reality  
and makes an important contribu-  
tion to the democratic process.

Political debates also serve the  
majority of the electorate better than  
any other single form of campaign  
communication that attempts to pre-  
sent the candidates' personalities  
and their positions on the issues.

While political campaign debates  
do have their shortcomings, in mod-  
ern society, where spot ads and news  
snippets tend to dominate political  
thought and gossip, political debates  
are a blessing.

The question of what the effects  
of debates may be on voter prefer-

ence is highly complex. The mere  
prospect of changing candidate or  
party preference on the basis of what  
is said in a debate could be as diffi-  
cult, or incomprehensible, as the  
idea of a faithful Stormers fan at  
Newlands who is prepared to switch  
allegiance during or after a game.

It would appear that debates have  
their greatest effect on undecided or  
wavering voters, especially those  
who are moderately interested in  
politics and who seek to base their  
decisions on information derived  
from campaign communication.

Such voters usually have weak  
party affiliations and make deci-  
sions very late in political cam-  
paigns. It is these voters that candi-  
dates and parties participating in

political debate have to woo and to  
whom most of their persuasive  
efforts should be directed.  
What seems to be quite clear also  
is that, insofar as political campaign  
debates deal with specific policy  
issues, they tell voters what they  
should be thinking about.

As pointed out earlier, there is  
invariably an inclination to pick a  
winner immediately or shortly after  
a debate. However, unless a voter or  
respondent reveals the criterion or  
criteria that was used to judge the  
participants, any decision about the  
so-called winner could be mislead-  
ing or simply uninformative.

■ The writer is a communication  
and political consultant based in  
Cape Town

apartheid. Rainbowism is too much of an  
embrace of our inherited inequalities."

Eradicating the racial legacy of colonial-  
ism depended on deracialisation, of which  
black empowerment was an agent. But it  
was "too narrow".

"It's black business empowerment, with  
a narrow stratum of shareholders whose  
apron strings are tied to the white bour-  
geoisie." Still, black empowerment was "an  
idea whose time has come".

"Anyone who thinks you can have a pre-  
dominantly white bourgeoisie in a predom-  
inantly black country without upheaval  
should have their head examined."

Arguing that the Government was not  
driven by a "Bismarckian" conception of a  
single nation, but a multi-ethnic, multi-cul-  
tural society, Naledi Pandor, deputy chair-  
woman of the National Council of  
Provinces, was confident racial myths  
would be dispelled in South Africa.

"We will, over time, provide concrete  
proof that white superiority is nothing but  
a myth," she said.

Even so, she saw no fault in constitu-  
tionally empowering "marginalised com-  
munities" to lever resources or recognition  
of rights.

Gender Commission chairwoman Joyce  
Piliso-Seroko cast a different light on the  
debate when she noted that one of South  
Africa's truly non-racial institutions was  
patriarchy.

Transformation depended on tackling  
gender, sex and class. And UCT vice-cham-  
cellor Mamphela Ramphele summed up  
the challenge when she asked: "How does  
one undo 350 years of affirmative action for  
white people, especially white men?"

It was clear, she argued, that strategic  
black empowerment was needed to wrest  
economic control from white capital, and  
confront perceptions of black inferiority.

If anyone thought the path out of the  
colonial past had been found in 1994, the  
debate seemed to dispel it.  
That, and any hope that a quick or easy  
passage exists. Yet, it is probably equally  
true that the intellectual contest of ideas is  
itself part of the journey along the "one  
path open to us" envisioned by Olive  
Schreiner.

political debate have to woo and to  
whom most of their persuasive  
efforts should be directed.

What seems to be quite clear also  
is that, insofar as political campaign  
debates deal with specific policy  
issues, they tell voters what they  
should be thinking about.

As pointed out earlier, there is  
invariably an inclination to pick a  
winner immediately or shortly after  
a debate. However, unless a voter or  
respondent reveals the criterion or  
criteria that was used to judge the  
participants, any decision about the  
so-called winner could be mislead-  
ing or simply uninformative.

■ The writer is a communication  
and political consultant based in  
Cape Town

# Mbeki must refuse RAU honour - Sasco

(54)  
By Paul Letsoalo

THE South African Students Organisation (Sasco) has appealed to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki not to accept an honorary doctorate offered by the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) because of the institution's alleged failure to transform.

RAU wants to confer the doctorate on Mbeki for his contribution to the development of South Africa.

"It is normal for revolutionary leaders to receive honours from institutions of higher learning for their contributions in the development of our country.

"However, we believe that such a gesture should not be informed and underpinned by sinister agendas such as the one displayed by RAU management," Sasco spokesman Masudu Kutama said yesterday.

Sasco said it viewed RAU as one of the country's most formidable institutions of higher learning which, although it had substantial resources, still refused to transform. About 85 percent of the uni-

versity's students are white while blacks represent a small minority.

Masudu said RAU leaders in both council and academic structures continued to represent demographics of the old order.

"Its management continues to be led by white Afrikaner males who have no understanding of the transformation process," said Masudu.

He criticised RAU for its language policy that continued to contradict the Government's education policy on access, language and admission to institutions of higher learning.

Mbeki's spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said: "We have been in contact with Sasco from both national and provincial level and this matter was resolved," Mamoepa said. However, he would not say how it had been resolved.

A RAU spokesperson who did not wish to be named said: "We have spoken to Mr Mbeki and now we are just waiting for him to give us the date on which he will be available."

69/5/5/199  
Mamoepa



# First Catholic university to open

(54)

By Saint Molakeng

SOUTHERN Africa will have its first independent religious institution when the St Augustine University of South Africa (Sausa) opens on July 1.

Archbishop Buti Tlhagale, one of the country's leading black academics and theologians, has been appointed the first chancellor of the institution that will be based in Observatory, Johannesburg.

"Sausa will subscribe to a Catholic ethos in its teaching and will serve as an institution that seeks to ensure that its graduates take their religious and ethical beliefs into their chosen professions," Tlhagale said.

"However, the university will not discriminate on the basis of race or gender, let alone creed. It will in no way compromise academic freedom as is practised."

University head Professor Edith Raidt said the institution would start by offering post-graduate Master and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. So far 10 students have registered and Raidt said an enrolment of 20 would be acceptable when the university opens its doors.

Undergraduate and other degrees would be available in about five years.

"We believe that the university will over time teach disciplines necessary for authentic human development and the flourishing of individuals and society in South Africa," Raidt said.

The concept of a Catholic university was first mooted six years ago by Catholic academics, clergy and business people. It now enjoys the backing of a network of international Catholic institutions.

96/5/27/199  
Sewoan

## HIGHER EDUCATION

# WANDERING OFF WITH THE WRONG ROAD MAP

But at least students are clear on what they want and need

PM 28/5/99

(54)

Universities and technikons are drafting unrealistic institutional plans that try to second-guess the Education Department's transformation agenda in order to secure subsidies.

This is one of the findings of a recent departmental report into the trends shaping higher education.

It says many institutions are planning for huge increases in science, engineering and technology enrolment because they think this will assure them government funding, without taking cognisance of their financial resources, facilities, staff or the paucity of matriculants passing these subjects.

The report assesses the three-year enrolling plans compiled by universities and technikons at the department's request. It criticises the quality of most of the submissions and says institutions are:

- Making unrealistic, unfounded enrolment projections;
- Have poor planning, analytical and modelling capabilities, giving rise to inconsistent and contradictory projections in some cases; and
- Are misinterpreting the White Paper to mean that in future funding will be routed mainly to science, engineering and technology and that the humanities will be downgraded.

The report concludes that, given the unevenness of the plans and the weakness of many institutions, it may be necessary to extend the five years allowed for the implementation of the department's national higher education framework.

But Brian Figaji, vice-chancellor of Peninsula Technikon and a member of the Council on Higher Education, says institutions are expected to plan in a vacuum. "Until the department spells out its new funding formula and new quality assurance measures and gives institutions some policy direction on what their missions should be, this problem will continue."

Regarding shifts in the size and demography of the higher education sector, the report finds total enrolment grew by nearly 20% between 1993 and 1997 and may drop to 10% up to 2001. This is contrary to the trend that since 1910 had seen university

enrolment double every 10 years.

University of Cape Town senior deputy vice-chancellor Prof Wieland Gevers says enrolment has been far lower than expected in recent years because of inadequate State student financial aid and poor matric results. The number of Senior Certificate passes fell from just more than 283 000 in 1995 to 272 000 in 1998, despite school enrolments having increased by almost 500 000/year.

But he says the emphasis on quality in institutions' strategic plans and nationally will result in more people with worthwhile qualifications graduating from the system despite the smaller intake.

While black student enrolment increased by 64% (131 000 students) between 1993 and 1997, white enrolment dropped by 20% (8 300 students), says the report.

Institutions attribute the decline in white enrolment to a drop in the white population growth rate, emigration and competition from private educational institutions. This is expected to have a negative impact on the financial stability of the higher education system, because white students represent a stable core of fee-paying students.

In terms of planned enrolment, the total proportion of Africans increased from 41% in 1993 to 57% in 1997 and should reach 60% in 2001. The report says that though not many institutions have set race-based enrolment targets, they have strategies to recruit disadvantaged students, including alternative admissions programmes, bridging programmes and programmes to improve the quality of maths and science in schools.

A large part of the growth in black student numbers has been in distance education and part-time programmes at historically Afrikaans universities,

sometimes with little shift in the demographic composition of their main campuses. But the report says it does suggest the language barrier is being breached by these institutions, most of which have adopted dual language policies.

A Pretoria University spokesman says another reason for the surge in popularity of Afrikaans universities is that they are seen as "stable institutions committed to high academic standards".

Projected growth in enrolment at Afrikaans universities between 1993 and 2001 is a staggering 85%. Since 1993, enrolment has decreased in historically black universities, while remaining steady in the historically English universities.

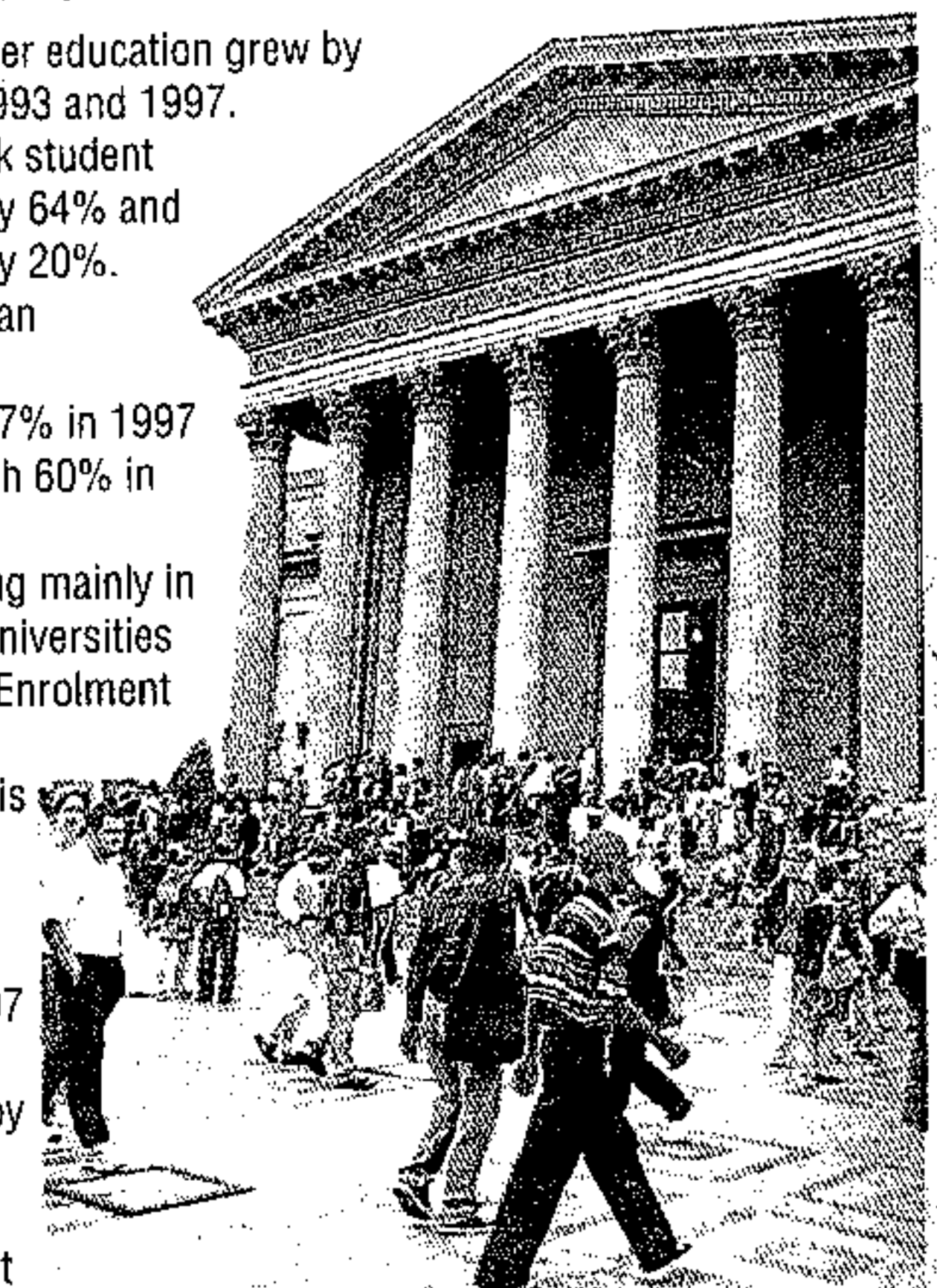
Technikon enrolment increased by 46% between 1993 and 1997, while university enrolment increased by only 8,6%. This trend is expected to continue, showing technikons are becoming more acceptable to society. "I think the fact that we've introduced degrees has helped to change perceptions," says Figaji. "Technikons have also been more stable than universities and people perceive that it's easier to get a job with a technikon qualification."

If there is any message to be gleaned from the report, it's that students want to study in a stable environment and obtain qualifications that are highly regarded and skills that are marketable. Institutions that fail to deliver on these counts will continue to see enrolment dwindle.

Claire Bisserker

## TRANSFORMING PROFILE

- \*Total enrolment in higher education grew by about 20% between 1993 and 1997.
- \*During this period black student enrolment increased by 64% and white enrolment fell by 20%.
- \*The proportion of African students has increased from 41% in 1993 to 57% in 1997 and is expected to reach 60% in 2001.
- \*This growth is occurring mainly in historically Afrikaans universities and white technikons. Enrolment at historically black universities and Unisa is falling.
- \*Technikon enrolment increased by 46% between 1993 and 1997 while university enrolment increased by only 8%.
- \*Universities' share of total student enrolment should fall to 62% in 2001 from 71% in 1993.
- \*Most permanent academic and professional staff are still white males.



# Pay-outs for 'racist' assaults

(54)

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

M+G 28/5-3/6/99

The management of the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) has agreed to pay compensation to victims of vicious assaults by the protection services on the campus.

RAU management has bowed to pressure from black students, who have called on the Human Rights Commission (HRC) to probe human rights violations against them.

Last year, black students clashed with the security guards after the guards insisted the students call off their "black" party. The guards apprehended four senior students and assaulted them with electric cattle prods. The university refused to investigate the assault.

The students laid a case of harassment, intimidation and assault with the Brixton police, but when they failed to investigate, students asked the HRC to conduct an investigation into racism at the university.

In a sworn statement submitted to the HRC, one of the students who was assaulted by the guards said white students also whipped black students.

The student complained that an all-white student residence committee subjected them to violent initiation and racial abuse. "Black students were

forced to cook, clean carpets and wash regularly for white students," he said.

In a letter to the HRC, RAU rector Professor JC van der Walt agreed to compensate students who provide "adequate" proof of medical expenses.

Van der Walt added that the university will also consider further training of its campus protection services, including human rights education.

"A role for the HRC in respect of such training will be agreed upon. Once relations between RAU and the HRC have been normalised, co-operation in respect of human rights education and research will be considered," said Van der Walt.

HRC legal services head MC Moodiar confirmed that the commission has considered a settlement with RAU. "The matter is still under discussion with RAU management and I cannot comment further about it," said Moodiar.

Malcolm X, one of the students who was injured in the alleged assault by security guards, has snubbed RAU's offer. "Even if the RAU management can give me R1-million, as they once tried, to bribe me to be silent about this, I will never take it," he said. "If I take the money, the institution will not change its racist practices and innocent students will continue to suffer."

PHYLIQA OPPELT

**S**OUTH Africa's young people mix easily with other race groups, believe in democracy and want to be part of the changes taking place. But they also believe crime is the biggest problem in South Africa, and most of them feel that the government is corrupt and that the death penalty should be reinstated.

These sentiments — focusing on political issues — are part of a Sunday Times survey among 1 500 students at 12 universities.

The objective of the research was to identify life issues and the mindsets of South African university students. The survey used a quota sample and the interviews were conducted on a face-to-face basis, on campuses around the country. Respondents were randomly selected.

While much has been made of supposed political apathy among young South Africans, 84 per cent of the university students surveyed have registered to vote on Wednesday. Registration is evenly

Survey of youth reveals some interesting divisions

# Young say SA is cool

ST 30/5/99

(54)

## SA STUDENTS POLITICAL ISSUES STATEMENT AGREEMENT

	TOTAL %	WHITE %	BLACK %	COLOURED %	ASIAN %
I want to be part of the change taking place in South Africa	86	75	94	87	93
Believe the government is corrupt	65	82	50	67	75
I don't have faith in the present government	46	70	24	55	61

Graphic from ANCCH

spread among race groups — 86 percent of blacks, 83 percent of whites, 71 percent of coloured students and 77 percent of Asians say they have registered. But white and coloured students do not seem to be clear about which party represents their aspirations. At the time of the survey only 55 percent of white students and 56 percent of coloured students had a clear idea who they would vote for. Most of the students interviewed, however, believe in a democratic South Africa, but at the same time 65 percent feel

that the present government is corrupt. An astounding 41 percent of all the students surveyed said that they were happier living in South Africa five years ago — 55 percent of white students, 27 of blacks, 41 percent of coloureds and 67 percent of Asians.

Nearly a third of the black students interviewed thought that they would emigrate at some time in the future while 58 percent of white students, 52 percent of coloured students and 63 percent of Asian students said they would contemplate living elsewhere.

Asian students, in many respects, seem to be the most alienated from the new South Africa, although 96 percent feel happy mixing with people of all races and 85 percent are comfortable with the idea of democracy. When it comes to issues like the

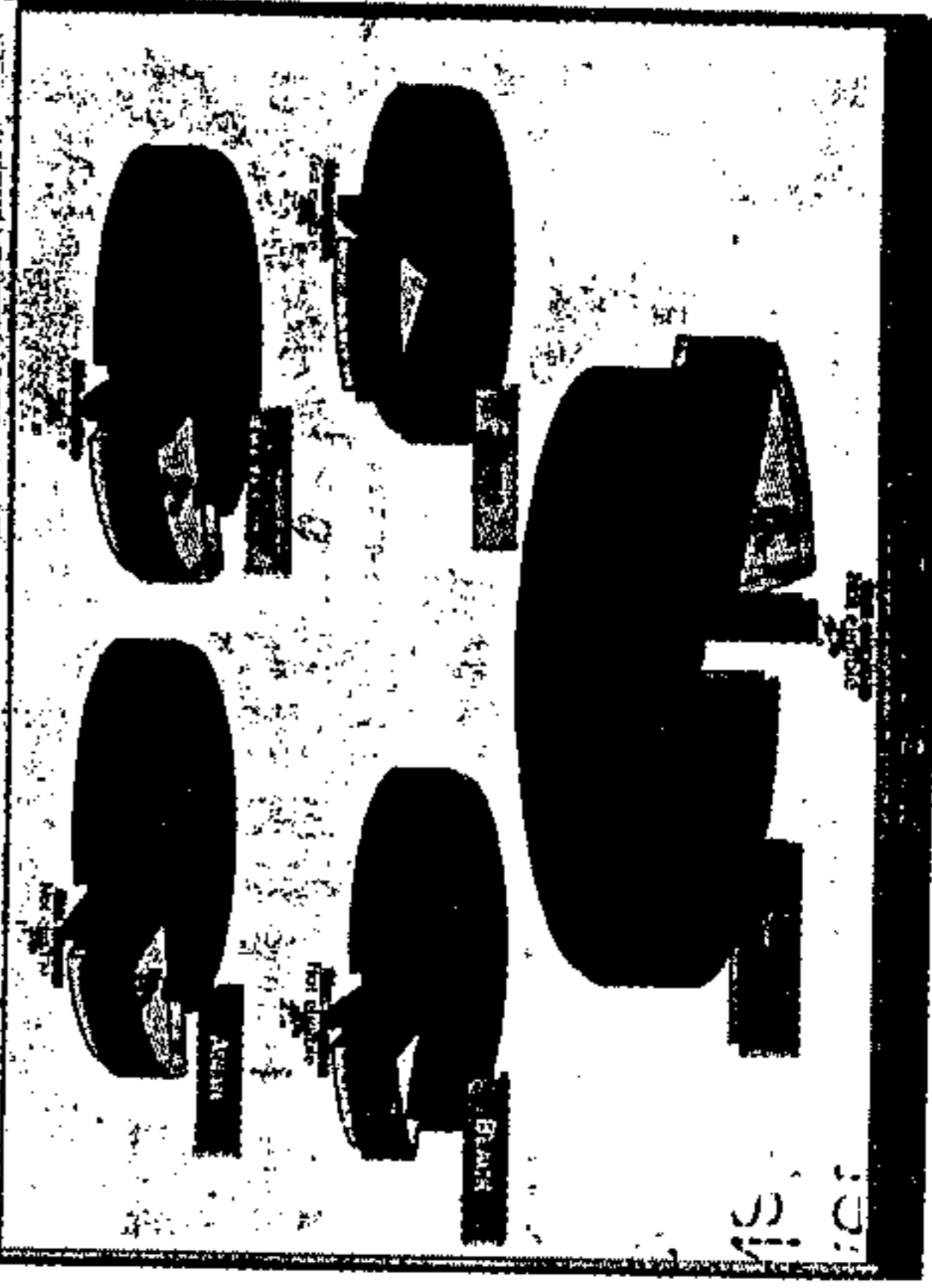
death penalty, crime, emigration and a desire for the old South Africa, they appear to be pessimistic. Asian students are also the least positive about the future.

Black students, on the other hand, are highly optimistic about the ANC government and say it has created a better South Africa. They want to be part of change and 81 percent believe they have a future here. White students make

up the biggest proportion — at 70 percent — of those who don't have any faith in the present government. A full 60 percent wish the political situation had not changed as much as it has over the past five years. They are more than any other race group, are not confident that the present government will successfully

take South Africa into the future. But 83 percent feel happy about mixing with people of all races and 81 percent are happy with the idea of democracy. For 90 percent of all students, South Africa would be a much better place without crime, while 88 percent believe crime is our biggest problem.

When asked whether South Africa was a good place to grow up in, 78 percent of the students said yes. But while 66 percent of the white students and 57 percent of the Asians said yes, an overwhelming 92 percent of black students agreed. The complete Sunday Times survey will be published next month.



CP 30/5/99

# He failed, but still gets a law degree

By DOMINIC MAHLANGU

A LAW student at Vista University in Soweto who failed to qualify for his final examination last year graduated with a law degree this year after his marks were tampered with by an administrator.

The student, who did not even qualify to write the final exams because of his poor work throughout the year, was among 519 graduates honoured with degrees last month.

A senior administrative official allegedly colluded with the student and forged the marks and the exam results. This week three senior officials, who are known to City Press

but could not be reached for comment, were suspended by the university management council.

Those suspended were campus registrar Elliot Moseu, administrator Alfred Tau and law faculty officer Jeffrey Makula.

This was confirmed by the principal, Professor Diale Rangaka, who was ordered to do so by the Vista Universities Executive Management (VUEM) in Pretoria.

Rangaka referred inquiries about the suspensions to the VUEM chief administrator, Dr Ruben Mbuli, who could not be reached for comment. However, City Press has estab-

lished that the suspensions followed complaints laid by the university's Student Representative Council (SRC) in connection with alleged corruption.

Two of the officials allegedly demanded payments from students before they could register them. The students had applied for admission after the cut-off date.

Members of the SRC said they were tipped off by one of the students who had allegedly paid a bribe before he was registered.

Several other students who were admitted late then came forward with similar allegations. The third official was suspended

for accepting payment to help a student who did not qualify to write the final examination.

SRC information officer Elliot Mashini said a case of bribery, corruption and maladministration was then opened against the three officials with the Campus Administration Council.

"The suspension is long overdue. They should have been suspended earlier, after we exposed their corruption," said Mashini.

"We decided to open the charges after a number of students came forward and revealed how they had paid for their late admissions," he said.

(519)

# Technikon stands firm on charges

*Sowetan 21/6/99*  
(54)

By Victor Mecoamere  
Education Correspondent

CHANCES of finding a solution over the impending court appearance of 11 students who held Technikon South Africa (TSA) staffers hostage for 14 hours, look very slim.

A delegation from TSA and the Student Representative Council will meet today at 10am to try and resolve the matter. The student body has threatened to call for a nationwide class boycott in protest against the management's decision to have kidnapping charges against the students pursued.

The students appeared in the Kabokweni Magistrates Court on June 15 and the case was postponed to July 15.

TSA public affairs manager Ms Laura Ann Coetzee has stressed that the students will also face an internal disciplinary hearing after the court case.

The incident happened on May 11 at the Elijah Mango College of Education in Nelspruit after a misunderstanding over unpaid student fees.

In terms of TSA policy, no student whose fees for the previous academic year are outstanding is to be registered, the kidnapping of officials when this policy was applied, amounted to a criminal offence, said TSA Vice-Chancellor Professor Attie Buitendacht.

# RAU to pay out student victims

54

By Paul Letsoalo

**R**AND Afrikaans University has agreed to pay compensation to victims of assault who were injured by campus security guards when racial clashes broke out early last year.

Four black students sustained serious injuries after they were assaulted by security guards when they objected to the disruption of a private, in-residence party.

The students referred the matter to the Human Rights Commission for an investigation of alleged abuses.

Although the commission would not disclose how far investigations had gone, a letter written to the HRC by RAU rector Professor JC van der Walt was leaked to *Sowetan*. In it he confirmed that compensation would be paid to the victims.

Van der Walt confirmed to the HRC that the institution would deal separately and independently with the original complaints of Sithula Ramabu, Makhukhu Mampuru and Ranako Mabunda.

But Van der Walt said the compensation would be subject to the contractual indemnity of the university. Van der Walt also agreed that further

training of "our protection services" would include lectures on human rights.

"A role the HRC in respect of such training will be agreed on," he said.

RAU spokeswoman Sonia Payne confirmed that the letter was sent to the HRC by Van der Walt.

"At the same time we must express our disappointment that a confidential letter to the HRC has been leaked to the media. It needs to be noted that the university is still in a process of communication with the HRC about complaints by four students," Payne said.

Although HRC legal services head MC Moodiar confirmed the settlement, he declined to disclose how much the students would be offered.

Van der Walt said students would be paid only if they produced proof of medical expenses. "Quantum will be subject to negotiations," he said.

Mr Malcolm X, one of the students injured and later expelled for bringing the university into disrepute, rejected the compensation offer yesterday.

"If I accept I will be sucking the blood of black students who are still suffering at RAU. This matter should be taken to court. What I need is justice not money."

3/6/99  
Sowetan

# A quality learning culture is the aim <sup>(54)</sup>

ARL 7/6/99

Two of the key issues in the transformation of South African higher education today are those of assuring quality and the building of a new culture of teaching and learning, says Michael Smout, Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.

Increasingly universities and technikons are being held accountable to their students and to the Government, fee payers, employers and the wider community, he said.

"On the one hand higher education (HE) must demonstrate wise use of its share of the national budget, while on the other hand fee payers and students are concerned to get value for money. Higher education customers have become more demanding over the past decade."

He said quality assurance featured prominently in the new HE Act and the SA Qualifications Authority Act, and added that the HE Quality Committee would have the responsibility for ensuring that all HE institutions effectively implemented quality assurance policies.

"Such policies will necessarily embrace a wide range of issues including financial management and student services, but at the heart of quality assurance in our universities and technikons lies the development of a new culture of teaching and learning," he said.

Dr Smout said higher education institutions had traditionally paid scant attention to the quality of teaching and the nature of the learning experience.

"In more recent times an increasing number of students have come from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds and are ill-prepared for tertiary level studies."

The usual response to this had been to provide "add on" teaching programmes staffed by specialist teachers and such programmes had achieved measurable successes – but had left the mainstream lecturers free to continue as before.

"It is now widely recognised that real quality of teaching and the best possible learning experience can be achieved only if mainstream higher

education lecturers give special attention to the quality of their teaching."

Dr Smout said that at Rhodes University, a Senate Committee had developed policy in three key areas: curriculum development and review; evaluation of teaching and courses; and the assessment of student attainment.

"Curricula need to take into account national education policies and the socio-economic environment within which the graduates will work. Curricula must also be sensitive to the range of learner backgrounds. Approaches to curriculum design should equip learners with the skills to access, manage and generate knowledge rather than just imbibe it.

"There must be regular evaluation of teaching and the curriculum by students, teaching staff and representatives from professional associations. The assessment of student attainment is now an integral part of curriculum development and planning."



# Medical schools set to fight state intervention

DI CAELERS

HEALTH WRITER

ARG 7/6/99

The Department of Health's controversial plan to establish an office to centralise all applications to medical schools is "a level of government interference" universities are unlikely to accept.

That is the view of South African Medical Journal editor Daniel Ncayiyana, commenting in the May edition on an article examining the issue.

The article says the Committee of Medical Deans has been discussing the idea for more than a year, but that the department announced in March its intention to open such an office, "apparently wanting to go it alone".

Dr Ncayiyana said deans had considered a central office both as a convenience to applicants and to stop the uncertainties caused by people applying to many medical schools, and accepting a place at more than one institution.

The department, however, saw its ultimate use as a way to regulate racial quotas in the student profile of medical schools. Dr Ncayiyana suggested it was more likely the profile would be achieved by "a carrot-and-stick approach in the funding formula".

The article quotes medical deans committee chairman Max Price, dean of the health sciences faculty at the University of the Witwatersrand, as saying that students accepting places at more than one institution meant many "no-shows" at the start of academic years.

A centralised application office would allow health science faculties to plan their intakes better and mean applicants, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, would bear the cost of only one application. Applicants could also be matched up with unfilled places around the country.

Professor Price is quoted as saying his committee is also examining a non-governmental system in the making among the KwaZulu Natal universities that could be adapted to serve medical schools nationwide.

He said the state Health Department had been kept fully informed of their discussions. But requests for nearly a year for a meeting had not borne fruit.

The department's human resources development director, Stephen Hendricks, is quoted as saying deans of medical and dental schools were "not averse" to the concept and that the department had been "tasked" to take the process further. The office was expected to be operational for the 2000 intake.

Artu 7/16/99

# Technikon Pretoria set for transformation

Technikon Pretoria has committed itself to transforming, with the aim of creating a revised and improved institution, in line with the challenges and opportunities of the "New South Africa".

A Broad Transformation Forum has been established to guide the transformation process, determine its direction and pace and direct relationships into that of partners rather than adversaries.

Because transformation is a continuous process and the BTF comprises a large number of stakeholders, a need has arisen for a document to guide and bind the participants.


This document also aims to structure the transformation process.

The Pretoria document for change was signed by academic staff, administrative staff, alumni, commerce and industry representatives, council, donors, employer organisations, the Government, management, students, trade unions and satellite campuses.

**MORE THAN 20 000 PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD CHOOSE TO ADVANCE THEIR CAREERS THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND. WHY? BECAUSE THEY'RE SERIOUS ABOUT ADVANCING THEIR CAREERS.**

Since 1967, the University of Southern Queensland has been able to lay claim to a number of things. To being of quality distance education, for one the successful advancement of for another. The courses on offer university are wide and varied, and commerce, education, science, serious are you about advancing your

Queensland has been able to lay a world leader in the flexible delivery thing. To having played a key role in thousands of people in their careers, through the local support office of the cover the facilities of arts, business, engineering and surveying. How career? We'd like to hear from you.



**USQ**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND  
TOOWOOMBA  
430 001

**Tel: (011) 678 1960 / (011) 476 7489.  
Fax: (011) 476 2430. E-mail: [iwh@mweb.co.za](mailto:iwh@mweb.co.za)**

# Tech SA ahead of the pack

As the millennium nears, Technikon SA (TSA) is putting forward its innovative new courses in a concerted effort to ensure that future learners receive the best education.

The technikon believes it is well placed to offer globally competitive career-focused education to millennium learners. TSA's strength lies in the flexibility, relevance and delivery of its more than 70 career-focused programmes. Priorities include maximising access and mobility for South Africa's aspiring young professionals, and tailoring programmes for the specific needs of industry and corporate clients. Also, TSA is forging new continental links in

response to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's call for an African Renaissance, and is well-established in a number of local and international collaborative efforts.

TSA is reaching thousands of distant learners. With its 21 regional and branch offices, learners are able to obtain academic and administrative support country-wide. Learners from other African countries have the benefit of TSA's programmes and courses, ware, and tutoring supplied in their own countries.

TSA also offers state-of-the-art technology to learners. The institution's Integrated Technology Centre has opened the doors to TSA Online, a facility that offers

access to online registration, assignment and examination dates) some of the coursework, and learners' academic records.

Within three years, all TSA coursework will be available to learners in this way, enabling immediate participation for those beyond South Africa's borders.

International recognition has been granted to a number of TSA's programmes, and it now, for example, provides a B Tech that qualifies accountants for post-graduate university preparation for the CA examination.

With its many international links and its technological advancement, TSA is an institution ahead of the pack in terms of global best practice.

# PE emphasises research

At its first Institutional Forum meeting at the PE Technikon in January, the Speaker of the National Assembly and Chancellor of the technikon, Frene Ginwala, congratulated the institution on its rapid progress.

She said management's proactive actions ensured that fewer problems were experienced on campus than at other tertiary educational institutions in the country.

"The effective transformation process at the technikon has illustrated that management did not hesitate to question old precedents which were no longer valid - as early as 1989 - and then broke away from the status quo," Dr Ginwala said.

One of the first actions was to lift all discriminatory measures regarding access to the technikon and to open the residences to all races. Subsequently, African students increased from 277 in 1989 to 5 345 in 1998. White students dropped from 3 242 in 1989 to 2 998 in 1998.

There is no doubt that the timely establishment of the Transformation Forum in 1994 has thus far greatly contributed towards the peaceful transformation of the PE Technikon. Major initiatives by this forum included the reconstruction of the Technikon Council in accordance with the Technikon Act 1993.

Furthermore, the forum also identified further aspects of the technikon which were in need of trans-

formation. These include admission policy structures of governance, language policy core values, curriculum campus relations, financial student welfare, and equity.

Research is becoming increasingly important and the Unit for Research Development was formed in 1996. The unit aims to stimulate research and focuses on improving staff qualifications, to train high-level manpower on masters and doctorate level in order to make South African industry more competitive.

The fast pace of change in technology also drives the technikon to stay abreast of the latest trends and technological developments to ensure that once students have qualified, they are able to be immediately and effectively utilised by commerce and industry.

The technikon has also made a paradigm shift from an institution which predominantly teaches, to one which promotes and produces learning by its students. It has commissioned a R22-million building project on campus which will increase student intake by 15% (2 300 students).

Hennie Snyman, was appointed rector. His vision for the PE Technikon "as an open, non-discriminatory and equitable institution, serving the needs of all population groups", was subsequently endorsed at a strategic planning conference held in March 1989 which was attended by the rectorate, academic leaders and senior management.

Asked what was the most visible change in the way things were done now at the technikon from methods in the past, Dr Balintulo said focus had shifted towards a learner-centred approach. "Students are now seen much more working independently, in groups and in the library. Students are encouraged to become more independent and to seek avenues to apply their knowledge."

Dr Balintulo said class attendance played an important role and students had a relatively full timetable. But the nature of what students did in that contact time had changed significantly.

Lectures still had an important role, as did tutorials and assignments. Laboratory work continued to play a vital role and computer skills and applications were incorporated in most programmes.

Asked what was the most visible change in the way things were done now at the technikon from methods in the past, Dr Balintulo said focus had shifted towards a learner-centred approach. "Students are now seen much more working independently, in groups and in the library. Students are encouraged to become more independent and to seek avenues to apply their knowledge."

Dr Balintulo said class attendance played an important role and students had a relatively full timetable. But the nature of what students did in that contact time had changed significantly.

Lectures still had an important role, as did tutorials and assignments. Laboratory work continued to play a vital role and computer skills and applications were incorporated in most programmes.

# Technikon's rector sets out vision of excellence

Cape Technikon's rector and vice-chancellor, Marcus Balintulo, has a vision to make the institution an accessible centre of excellence in the next five years.

Dr Balintulo, who steered the once troubled University of Durban-Westville during its most painful moments, said accessibility would be vigorously approached in the technikon's endeavour to be an equitable institution.

On transformation in respect of staff, he said a number of initiatives had been started to address the demographic profile of the Cape Technikon, including an employment equity policy and a programme to groom and develop black graduates.

Dr Balintulo said the technikon was currently engaged in a career path exercise and its success still had to be determined.

"As to capacity building, the institution is working on a training and development programme to build capacity for our staff."

Asked what was the most visible change in the way things were done now at the technikon from methods in the past, Dr Balintulo said focus had shifted towards a learner-centred approach. "Students are now seen much more working independently, in groups and in the library. Students are encouraged to become more independent and to seek avenues to apply their knowledge."

Dr Balintulo said class attendance played an important role and students had a relatively full timetable. But the nature of what students did in that contact time had changed significantly.

Lectures still had an important role, as did tutorials and assignments. Laboratory work continued to play a vital role and computer skills and applications were incorporated in most programmes.

The stumbling-blocks to bringing about parity in the staffing profile were due to a limited pool of black candidates, direct competition with the private sector on pay and slow turnover of staff.

The criteria used in recruiting, selecting, appointing and promoting previously disadvantaged academic staff were regulated according to the Labour Relations Act and the Employment Equity Act.

Asked what was the most visible change in the way things were done now at the technikon from methods in the past, Dr Balintulo said focus had shifted towards a learner-centred approach. "Students are now seen much more working independently, in groups and in the library. Students are encouraged to become more independent and to seek avenues to apply their knowledge."

Dr Balintulo said class attendance played an important role and students had a relatively full timetable. But the nature of what students did in that contact time had changed significantly.

Lectures still had an important role, as did tutorials and assignments. Laboratory work continued to play a vital role and computer skills and applications were incorporated in most programmes.

Asked what was the most visible change in the way things were done now at the technikon from methods in the past, Dr Balintulo said focus had shifted towards a learner-centred approach. "Students are now seen much more working independently, in groups and in the library. Students are encouraged to become more independent and to seek avenues to apply their knowledge."

Dr Balintulo said class attendance played an important role and students had a relatively full timetable. But the nature of what students did in that contact time had changed significantly.

Lectures still had an important role, as did tutorials and assignments. Laboratory work continued to play a vital role and computer skills and applications were incorporated in most programmes.

Asked what was the most visible change in the way things were done now at the technikon from methods in the past, Dr Balintulo said focus had shifted towards a learner-centred approach. "Students are now seen much more working independently, in groups and in the library. Students are encouraged to become more independent and to seek avenues to apply their knowledge."

Dr Balintulo said class attendance played an important role and students had a relatively full timetable. But the nature of what students did in that contact time had changed significantly.

Lectures still had an important role, as did tutorials and assignments. Laboratory work continued to play a vital role and computer skills and applications were incorporated in most programmes.

Asked what was the most visible change in the way things were done now at the technikon from methods in the past, Dr Balintulo said focus had shifted towards a learner-centred approach. "Students are now seen much more working independently, in groups and in the library. Students are encouraged to become more independent and to seek avenues to apply their knowledge."

Dr Balintulo said class attendance played an important role and students had a relatively full timetable. But the nature of what students did in that contact time had changed significantly.

Lectures still had an important role, as did tutorials and assignments. Laboratory work continued to play a vital role and computer skills and applications were incorporated in most programmes.

Asked what was the most visible change in the way things were done now at the technikon from methods in the past, Dr Balintulo said focus had shifted towards a learner-centred approach. "Students are now seen much more working independently, in groups and in the library. Students are encouraged to become more independent and to seek avenues to apply their knowledge."

Dr Balintulo said class attendance played an important role and students had a relatively full timetable. But the nature of what students did in that contact time had changed significantly.

Lectures still had an important role, as did tutorials and assignments. Laboratory work continued to play a vital role and computer skills and applications were incorporated in most programmes.

Asked what was the most visible change in the way things were done now at the technikon from methods in the past, Dr Balintulo said focus had shifted towards a learner-centred approach. "Students are now seen much more working independently, in groups and in the library. Students are encouraged to become more independent and to seek avenues to apply their knowledge."

Dr Balintulo said class attendance played an important role and students had a relatively full timetable. But the nature of what students did in that contact time had changed significantly.

Lectures still had an important role, as did tutorials and assignments. Laboratory work continued to play a vital role and computer skills and applications were incorporated in most programmes.

# Universities' challenge: more students, less money

## Which way will SA look: to African or European models?

Universities and technikons throughout the world are in a Catch 22 situation as students numbers continue their rapid increase while governments persist in implementing savage budget cuts, blaming it on too many graduates being churned out by a real or perceived decline in standard, and the inability of institutions to manage themselves.

Countries beset by political and economic transition, like Russia, an emerging economy, such as the Philippines and a society in need of reinventing itself, like South Africa, have all found mounting obstacles in their mission to provide good, quality higher education.

One of Russia's most renowned centres of learning, Kazan University, has faced a dogged battle to survive and could not even afford its water and electricity bills. During the 19th century, according to the magazine Unesco Sources, Kazan was the cradle of the empire's intellectual and scientific elite. Today, according to the magazine, the vast university houses 14 faculties, has 10000 students and 900 lecturers. However, given the state's financial problems, the university's future has been in doubt. "Kazan has everything except money," says the rector of Yuri Kono-

plev.

The fall of the Soviet Union has also forced lecturers and students to intensify their contacts with institutions outside Russia's borders.

According to Philippines Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito, the country does not have a perfect fit between the needs of the economy and the graduates produced by the higher education system.

While the marketplace needs individuals in science and technology sectors, the students are not flocking in droves for such courses. Information technology is considered to be an extremely promising market, with

more than 200 companies engaged in computer software and services. Yet the demand for graduating computer programmers far exceeds the supply.

Around the world, higher education enrolment has skyrocketed in the last few decades. The rise has been greater in developing countries over the past 14 years, where student growth has doubled from 17 million to 34 million.

In many instances, however, the growth in the number of students at higher education institutions has not been matched by increases in the allocation of resources in real terms, says a Unesco Policy Paper for Change and Development in Higher Education.

According to the Unesco publication, South African universities are still too marked by divisions of apartheid to play a constructive role in this quest.

According to former University of Witwatersrand deputy vice chancellor Professor William Makgoba, South Africa has three types of universities: the historically black universities which are

trying to preserve and promote an African ethos of scholarship, the Afrikaans universities which are citadels of Afrikaner culture and the so-called liberal universities which are Eurocentric in their orientation.

Makgoba describes South Africa as a nation which is like a chameleon that continues to change colour: "The universities themselves are not helping the situation. The problem they

are grappling with is whether they are going to become imitations of Europe or Africa."

The World Bank's recipe for institutions in developing countries includes a better management of resources, the strengthening of ties between institutions and industry and better quality control of higher education. However, South African universities and technikons, which are collectively owed in excess of R600-million in unpaid student fees, have been further hit by subsidy cuts.

Many, if not all, South African universities and technikons are gearing for change and the millennium.

The University of Witwatersrand's Professor Colin Bundy, along with several groups on campus, is shortly going to release a Strategic Plan which charts the way forward for Wits. The preliminary copy of the document has been well received on campus.

The University of Cape Town has also embarked on an initiative to meet the challenges of the 21st century as it puts the finishing touches to its Strategic Plan for the years 1999 to 2003.

Rhodes University plans to offer an excellent undergraduate and post-graduate education and provide opportunities for research.

**'Problem universities have is whether to become imitations of Europe or Africa'**

## Unisa has role on continent

The University of South Africa is a fundamental part of higher education in this country and has an important role to play in southern Africa, says Unisa vice-chancellor Anthony Melck.

Professor Melck said that one of the priorities facing Unisa when he was appointed vice-chancellor was to re-establish the institution as one of the major distance education providers in southern Africa and the world.

Professor Melck said that among the challenges facing Unisa was to ensure that course material and programmes were first class.

"A lot has to be done in terms of transformation. We have a long way to go in terms of the Employment Equity Act. Demographics at Unisa have to be changed," he said.

"But we also have to make sure that Unisa is financially sound."

## Act demands institutions register with department

All private, higher education institutions must be registered with the Department of Education in order to operate legally, according to the Higher Education Act.

Speaking at a workshop hosted by the Association of Private Colleges in Durban, Jay Ramnundlall of PC Training & Business College said that there was a legal obligation on the Registrar, as the Government representative, to protect the South African public and to act as a watchdog over private, higher education institutions.

Mr Ramnundlall said the Registrar informed the public that he believed the higher education insti-

tutions registered through his office are financially viable and that their qualifications are recognised as being of at least comparable quality to those offered by South African universities and technikons.

A condition for registration with the department was that institutions were first accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

Mr Ramnundlall added that SAQA had recently reached an agreement on the issuing of preliminary accreditation for providers of tertiary learning.

Quality assurance evaluations,

at institutional and programme level, would be conducted through the current, recognised accredited bodies for higher education and training.

"A person or persons wishing to open a new private higher education institution would be well advised to bear in mind that a higher education operation is not a small business undertaking," Mr Ramnundlall said.

Mr Ramnundlall's PC Training and Business College offers computer and business skills. It has over 30 branches - in Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal and plans to open more.

# Project funds SA students abroad

ARG 7/6/99

Fifty South African students from disadvantaged backgrounds are studying engineering and information and technology at a Malaysian multimedia university.

The students are on a R10-million scholarship programme, which sends 10 students a year on a four-year course at the Universiti Telekom, Malaysia's first private university owned by Telekom Malaysia, a leading telecommunications company.

The programme is run jointly by Thintana Communications, the Department of Communications and Telkom.

Contrary to the trend that has seen enrolment at South African higher education facilities double every 10 years, the latest report by the education department forecasts a potential drop in total higher education enrolment of 10% by 2001.

Joe Rajaratnam of Thintana Communications says: "With this in mind, the use of a world class institution like Universiti Telekom was a natural move to facilitate the education process and boost the number of South African graduates in the field of technology."

Thintana is a consortium comprising SBC International and Telekom Malaysia, which bought a 30% equity stake in Telkom in 1997.

Thintana has already sent 20 students to Malaysia since 1998 at a cost of R4-million.

The criterion used to select students for the programme is based on historically disadvantaged South African citizens.

Applicants need to pass matric with a C symbol in maths and science on standard grade or D symbols on higher grade.

Applications for the 2000 academic year are already underway.

Research  
7/18/99

# Cape scientists honoured for world-class cancer

## HEALTH WRITER

Cancer researchers from the universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch were among those honoured by the Cancer Association at a function to showcase some of the world-class research in the field being done in South Africa.

This year, the Cancer Association

of South Africa is spending nearly R3-million on research in the fields of cervical, liver, oesophageal, breast and prostate cancers.

They are also funding research into the links between stress and cancer, and into the development of new anti-cancer drugs, especially those that inhibit multi-drug resistance in cancer cells.

At the function last week, the top

award for outstanding contribution to cancer research in the country went to Professor Mike Kew, from the University of the Witwatersrand.

He was the first scientist to discover that Hepatitis B was the main cause of liver cancer in South Africa.

Professor Kew's research culminated in the country's national programme, introduced in 1995, to vaccinate all babies in a bid to stem the

epidemic.

Liver cancer is a devastating disease that affects thousands of black South Africans and those in other parts of Africa, killing breadwinners younger than 30.

Local scientists whose work was showcased included Dr Anna-Lise Williamson and Professor Ed Rybicki of the University of Cape Town, who are working on a South African

(54) ARG

vaccine to combat the cervical cancer epidemic; and Professor Ben Smit of Stellenbosch University, who devised a South African intra-uterine tube now used worldwide for beta radiotherapy.

Cancer Association research coordinator Carl Albrecht said his association funded 10 national consortiums of researchers to ensure "families of scientists tackle (cancer-

related) problems of national importance in South Africa".

This year, the biggest chunk of their nearly R3-million research funding is dedicated to oesophageal cancer.

Researchers in the Western Cape, Transkei and KwaZulu-Natal aim to understand the causes of the cancer and develop strategies for prevention and treatment.

# Wits raises pace of change

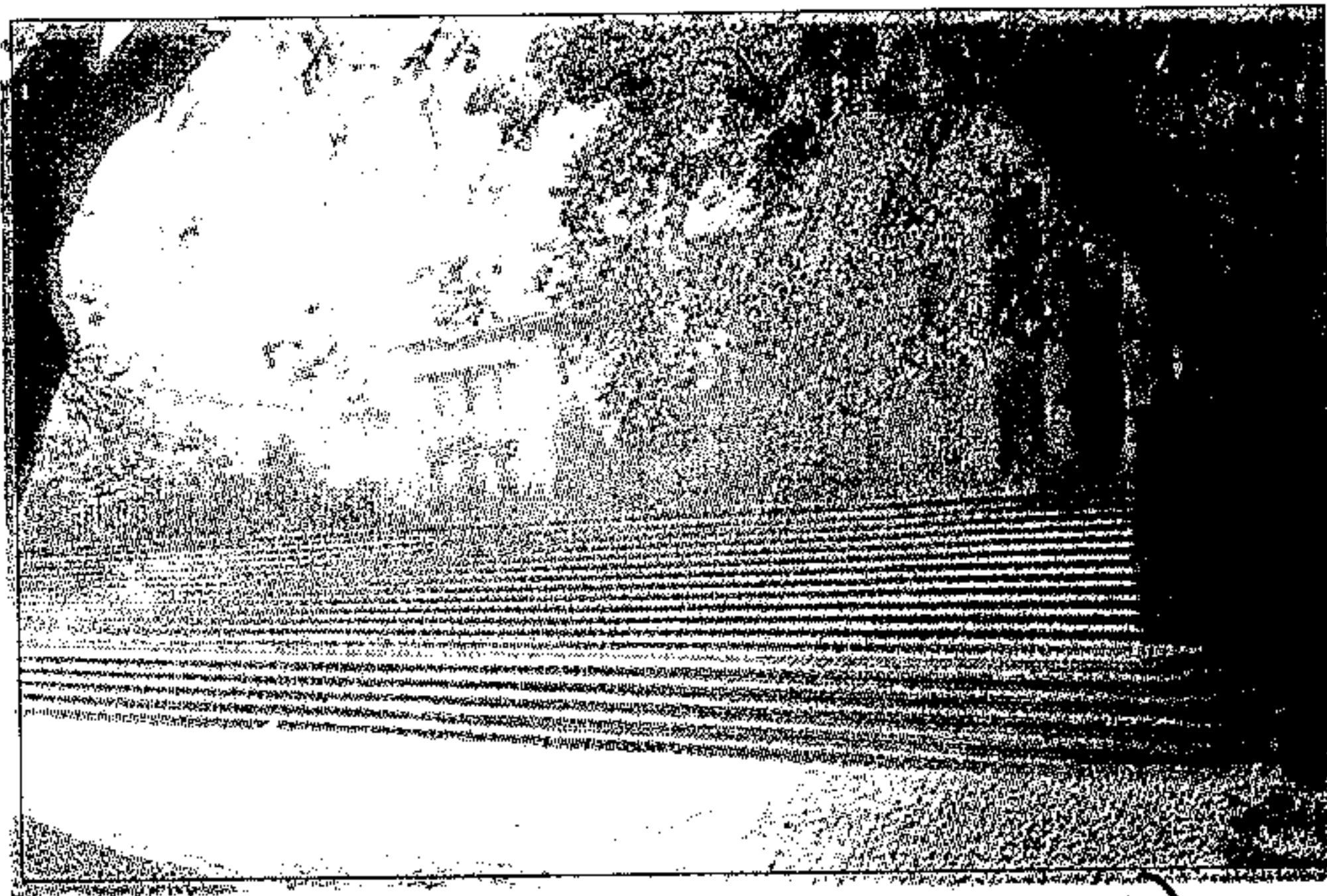
"According to one international study, universities have changed more in the last three decades than in the previous three centuries", said University of the Witwatersrand vice-chancellor and principal professor Colin Bundy at a recent address at Stanford University in the United States.

Bundy said although universities were among the oldest surviving institutions in the Western world, the challenges that face them today meant that further change was inevitable. It was not only the information revolution, but also the pressure for greater accountability for public funds, reduced funding, the need to create closer relationships with industry and business and the need to widen access.

It was also about having international recognition while at the same time contributing to the surrounding society.

Bundy said a university such as Wits, which prides itself on academic excellence, had an international reputation, research centres that were world-renowned and a unique location in the heartland of Africa's premier business city.

"Great changes were experienced at the end of World War 2. Changes such as bridging programmes and more curriculum content related to African issues have been ongoing since the early 1980s," he said.



Years of experience: a view of the Wits Great Hall (54)

More than a decade ago, a programme to increase the number of black engineering graduates was introduced - more than 140 had graduated so far.

Today's issues also included concern for the environment, AIDS/HIV, better human resources management, and preserving our past. "Take just one of these issues, the environment. Wits is actively involved in this area. Its climatology research group, for example, has been part of an international team looking at global warming and related areas," Bundy said.

However, environmental protection demanded people with skills in environmental sciences.

Wits was introducing a degree

in environmental engineering, yet another example of responding to the needs of the country. The new degree aimed to produce graduates trained to tackle problems such as the supply of clean drinking water, the safe disposal of domestic refuse and industrial waste and the effective management of river systems.

With the help of business and industry, state-of-the art environmental laboratories had been constructed, ensuring graduates will be exposed to the latest methodology in this area.

There would be more new courses as new issues emerged, and new skills were required, and as professional updating was needed. ARG 7/6/99

# Fund to help black students

Sibonelo Radebe

BD 8/6/99

(54)

A GROUP from the 1976 student leadership generation has joined up to launch an educational trust fund, the June 16 Foundation, to help previously disadvantaged students further their studies and improve the conditions in which they study.

The founder of the trust is Majakathata Mokoena, a student leader during the 1976 student uprising and now one of the prominent black businessmen in the country.

Mokoena, financial director of Afrozone, a telecommunications consortium bidding for the third cellular licence, says the initiative will contribute significantly to redressing the political injustices of the past.

The trust will get involved in major investment deals whose yields will be used to bring back the culture of learning and education.

Mokoena said the trust will be financed in a similar way to most of the black economic empowerment moves, including borrowing money to invest and buy equity

stakes, and by receiving donations. He said the trust will ensure visible involvement on the ground as opposed to only "throwing money at a problem".

Among other things envisaged by the trust is the building of school laboratories, libraries and sports facilities and provision of sports equipment. Main idea behind the trust is to create an enabling environment and one which will keep students at school.

He said it was time that people took responsibility for their communities by giving back what they got from the institutions they studied at. He said the idea was in keeping with practices in the US where many private schools were kept going by the efforts of ex-students and pupils.

# Change in tertiary institutions to be measured

**Primarashni Pillay**

THE higher education sector could see transformation occurring more rapidly — and being measured — following the education department's establishment of a unit that will work with institutions to set up benchmarks for transformation.

Areas that would be benchmarked in the transformation process would include institutions' curricula, as well as staff components, which should comply with

the requirements of the Employment Equity Act, said Themba Mhambi, director of the newly-formed Higher Education Constituency Affairs Directorate.

He said it was difficult to assess how institutions were faring in transformation because there were no indicators.

"We need a set of commonly agreed upon, uniform indicators. We hope to develop transformation indicators and have to get to a stage where we can say these are

some of the things that should be happening at institutions," he said.

Mhambi stressed that the unit had no intention of prescribing or dictating the terms of transformation to institutions.

He said the unit would form partnerships with institutions and provide them with information on legislative frameworks of the education department. The unit would also play a role in co-ordinating institutions' participation in policy development and implementation.

(54)

BD 9/6/99



# Catholic varsity's open lectures

By Saint Molakeng

THE new Catholic University of South Africa has invited the public to a series of lectures before its opening on July 13.

Nine international academics will give lectures on issues ranging from business ethics, and African culture to philosophy, tolerance and forgiving.

The lectures, to run from July 5 to 15, will precede the opening of the university in Observatory, north of Johannesburg.

There will be a charge of R20. "The academics, some of whom will be our lecturers, will illustrate the top-quality education that will be offered," Sausa head Professor Edith Raidt said yesterday.

"Information on medicine, business, theology, politics and other fields will be provided."

Among the speakers will be black theologian and academic Archbishop Buti Tlhagale, who has since been appointed chancellor of the university.

He will speak on the theme "Bringing the African culture into the church", while Uganda's Dr Emmanuel Katangole will deliver an address on "African philosophy".

Other speakers will come from Holland, America and Germany. The university launch, to be held at the local Sacred Heart College, will be divided into two ceremonies. The first, to be attended by bishops and clergy, will be a mass conducted by Tlhagale.

"It will be a very solemn affair but it will be open to the public," Raidt said. An African Catholic choir will add their voices to the occasion.

Next will be an academic ceremony attended by academics from neighbouring universities and the Catholic international academic network of tertiary institutions.

● Those who wish to attend the public lectures should phone the university's Mrs Genni Gent at (011) 648-1765.

54  
190  
power

By Victor Mecoamere  
Education Correspondent

THE South African Students Congress (Sasco) has alleged that the Doornfontein campus of Technikon Witwatersrand is covering up the misappropriation of about R500 000 and the theft of more than R300 000.

Sasco chairman Mr Thabo Kupa, political commissar Mr Siphon Masuku and treasurer Mr Elias Moloto said the technikon's TWR Centre for Career Development (CCD) had reported the theft of R313 800, but one of the suspects, André Barnard, was found guilty of the theft of only R183 600.

"The question is: what happened to the R130 200? There is no answer to this," Kupa said.

Sasco also alleged that the TWR had "kept under wraps" another matter involving the CCD, where an employee

# Technikon accused of fraud cover-up

(54) Sowetan 16/6/99

allegedly squandered about R500 000. "The misappropriation of the funds was discovered after a forensic audit of the administration of the CCD", Kupa said.

He said the TWR had also "unconsciously decided to close one of our campuses (Eloff Street) at a cost of R7 million to build a new CCD building for about R4 million".

He also claimed that the rate of transformation was slow, which Sasco

alleged had been scuttled by the dissolution of the institution's Broad Transformation Forum.

Kupa said they would be calling an independent assessor "to intervene, call for the intervention of Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu and for that of the state auditor-general".

TWR media officer Ms Alison McDonald said an internal audit was carried out on the administration of the CCD. The audit indicated "some areas

of potential irregularities which led to a full forensic audit, culminating in the suspension of two senior staff members of the CCD, subject to a disciplinary hearing". She said the disciplinary hearing had been completed, "leading to the reinstatement of CCD dean Mr Doug Hearne and the termination of the services of another staff member".

She said during the forensic investigation the interim management of the CCD was taken over by

TWR vice-chancellor Professor Connie Mogale.

McDonald said Barnard was no longer employed by the TWR. She said the South African Police Service had handled this matter last year.

"Barnard was charged and found guilty in court of fraud. He has not yet been sentenced. The technikon's lawyers are in the process of instituting civil charges against him to recover the stolen money."

On the alleged relocation of the CCD building, McDonald said: "The proposed new CCD building has been put on hold subject to strategic planning at present being undertaken."

And on the slow rate of transformation, she said: "The TWR is in the process of developing an employment equity plan which is also aligned to the strategic process."

## Technikon stands firm on charges

TECHNIKON SA said yesterday it would not drop charges against seven students accused of holding two technikon officials hostage on a Mpumalanga campus, despite students' threats of mass action.

Eleven students, seven of whom were from Technikon SA, took officials hostage at Elijah Mango College in KaBokweni near Nelspruit on May 11 after the students were refused permission to register for new courses until outstanding fees had been paid.

The hostage drama ended after police intervened. The students are facing charges of intimidation and abduction.

Technikon SA vice-chancellor Attie Buitendacht said protest action by students could lead to closure of regional offices because of public safety concerns. — Sapa.

5A BD18/6/99

# UCT honours five outstanding individuals

PRISCILLA SINGH  
EDUCATION WRITER

(54)

THE University of Cape Town will give honorary degrees to five outstanding individuals today, including Education Minister Kader Asmal and Chief Justice Ismail Mahomed.

The others are renowned filmmaker Richard Attenborough, paediatric surgeon Emeritus Prof Sid Cywes and UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor and mathematician, Prof John Martin. Attenborough will receive the Doctor of Literature *honoris causa* in December.

Asmal will be conferred the

et 25/6/99  
Doctor of Philosophy *honoris causa*, Judge Mahomed the Doctor of Laws, Cywes the Doctor of Medicine and Martin the Doctor of Science in Engineering.

● Asmal will be honoured for his efforts in the field of environmental conservation, as Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry. A leading anti-apartheid activist, Asmal is best known for his promotion of justice issues throughout the world. He holds degrees from the University of South Africa, the London School of Economics and Dublin University.

● Mahomed, the first black person in South African history to

be appointed as a permanent Judge of the Supreme Court of South Africa, will be honoured for his contributions as a jurist and his leading role in the transformation of the South African judiciary.

● Cywes, who ranked as one of the world's foremost paediatric surgeons, has been responsible for the planning of the Red Cross Hospital's neonatal surgical unit, its surgical intensive care unit and its trauma unit.

● Martin is recognised as a world leader in the field of computational and applied mathematics, has an A-rating from the former Foundation for Research Develop-

ment and was recognised by the foundation last year as a world leader in the field of computational and applied mechanics. He is also the chairman of the Council for Nuclear Safety.

● Attenborough became an independent film producer in 1959 and his two films which had the greatest impact on human rights issues were *Gandhi*, which won eight Oscars and five BAFTA Awards, and *Cry Freedom*.

*Cry Freedom* was hailed by African liberation leaders as having helped to intensify support for economic sanctions against the apartheid regime.



**DOCTOR SISULU ...** Albertina Sisulu and Reserve Bank's governor general-designate Tito Mboweni at the Wits graduation ceremony where Sisulu received an honorary law doctorate, as did her absent husband, Walter Sisulu

# Wits grants Sisulus honorary doctorates

**HUMAN** rights activists and ANC veterans Walter and Albertina Sisulu were this week honoured with Doctor of Law degrees by the University of Witwatersrand in recognition of their struggle against apartheid.

It was a rare moment. It is not often that an institution honours a husband and wife team with the same degree in the same ceremony.

On conferring the doctorates to the couple, Wits University cited Walter Sisulu as a great leader who

has never wavered in his devotion to democracy and equality, even after his 25-year stay in political detention.

Besides Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, Sisulu was said to be one of the three most important political leaders in black history.

Sisulu, also a former chancellor of the University of Venda, no longer plays an active role in politics or in the academic world due to deteriorating health.

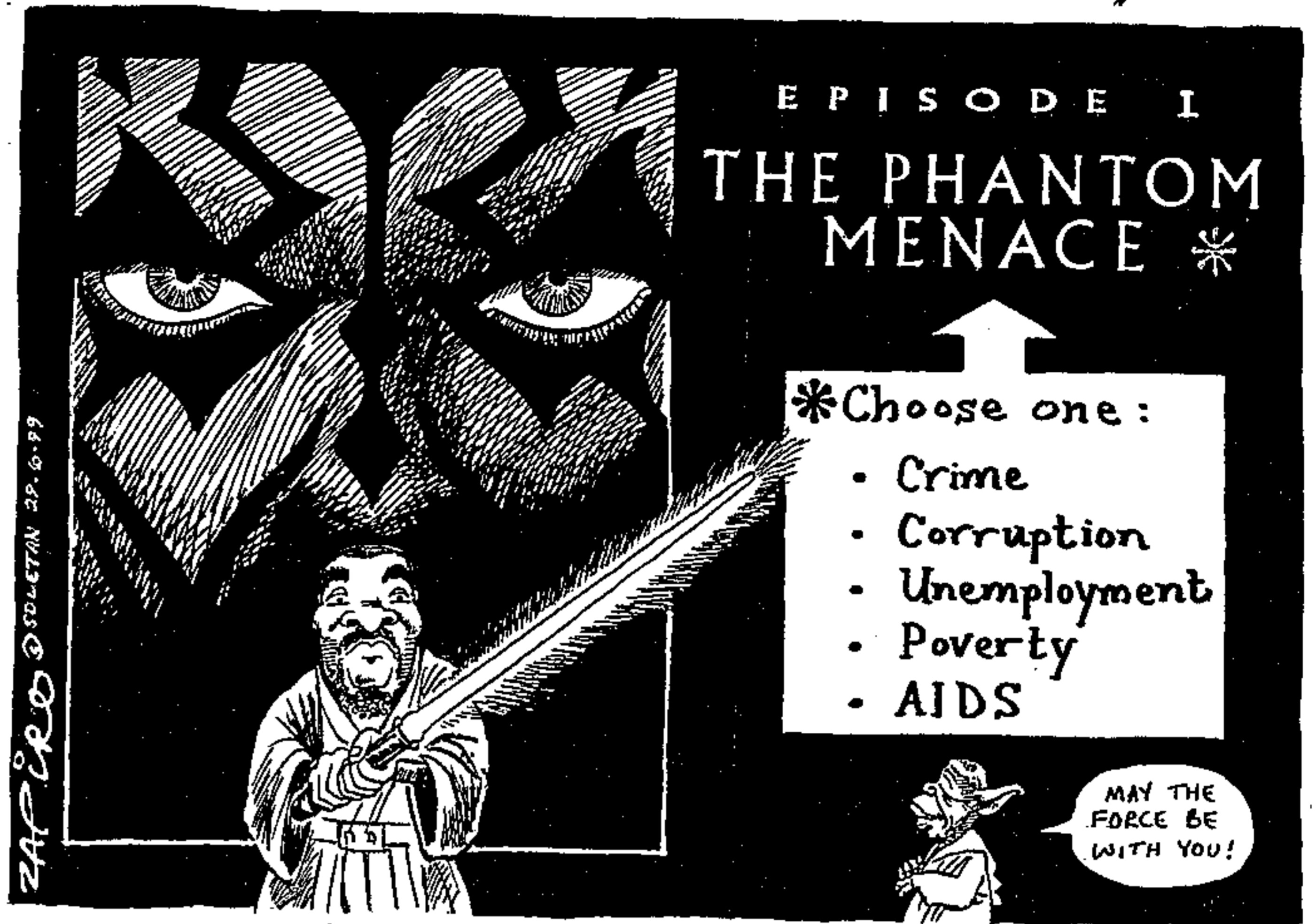
Among many other honours he

has also been awarded the highest honour in the land, the "Isithalandwe", by president Mandela.

His wife, Albertina Sisulu, an activist of the ANC's freedom movement in her own right since the 1940s and one of the founding members of the ANC Women's League, was praised as one of the leading citizens of this country.

Due to ill health, Walter Sisulu could not attend the ceremony and his daughter accepted his degree on his behalf.

CP 27/6/99



# Rocky road to learning

**H**AMSTRUNG by limited resources and the legacy of apartheid, the Ministry of Education has – as has the Government in other sectors – reconfigured the education landscape to a point where four-wheel drive vehicle terrain is now behind us and more manageable land lies ahead.

The country still needs, however, high-torque engines as the territory we are entering is quite hilly.

One of the most challenging sections to be negotiated is the continuing decline of historically disadvantaged institutions, particularly the universities.

There are myriad reasons for this, the chief one being the fact that some of these institutions were not – as higher education institutions traditionally and internationally are – spawned by the usual economic and social development needs of communities.

They were artificially created by apartheid to deny people, not white, the quality of higher education white people received from the UCTs and the Witses of the world. The result was that the disadvantaged institutions were resourced in ways which made them fractionally better than affluent high schools for whites.

With the political changes that came in from the early '80s, culminating in the first democratic government in 1994, and despite a higher education legislation which advocates sectoral cooperation, these institutions have had to compete on equal terms with their formerly privileged counterparts who have sizeable reserves.

As can be imagined, limited academic and professional resources and technological infrastructure has meant that even the best among the institutions have been unable to wholly match the historically advantaged institutions.

Matters have lately become so difficult that, in technical terms, some of the institutions are to all intents and purposes bankrupt and on the verge of collapse.

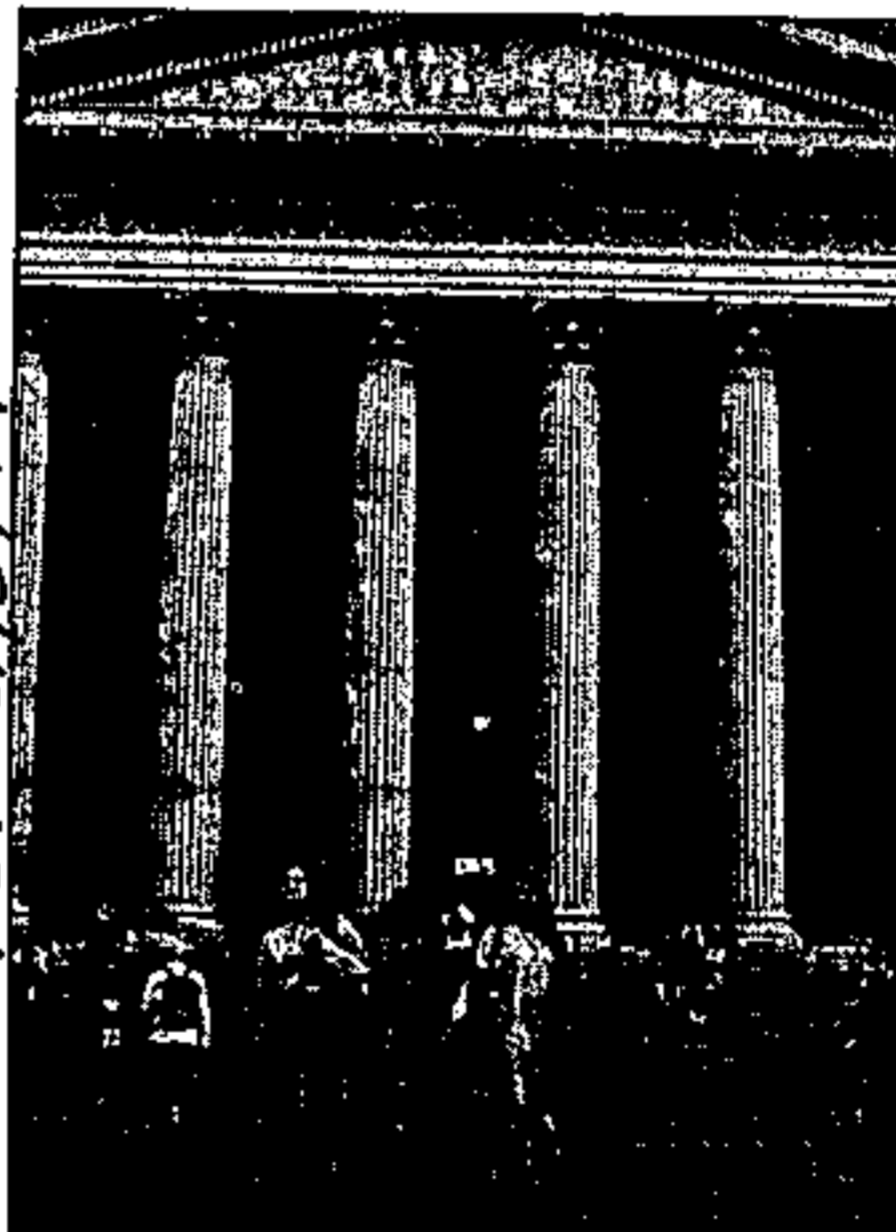
The Government has, through a facility termed redress, given the institutions some financial assistance. This has, however, merely arrested the bleeding of the ulcer, not removed it.

More redress funding has been budgeted for this year but it would appear that funding needs to be accompanied by technical assistance. The nature of this assistance has been identified in some cases and in others is still being investigated through developmental rather than punitive audits.

The affected institutions, however, have a major role to play in determining the lingering effects of historical disadvantage on their capacities not only for survival, but also for transforming themselves into true higher education institutions.

In my view the generic under-resourcing of

Some historically disadvantaged institutions are on the verge of collapse and funding alone is not enough to save them, writes **Themba Mhambi**



The legacy of apartheid still creates many problems for learning institutions throughout the country.

the institutions is a simple point of commonality which should serve as a point of departure towards a more complex unpacking of the problem.

For one, under-resourcing manifested itself in different ways in different institutions. This means, therefore, that over and above the shared historical experience of deliberate impoverishment, each institution will have its own form of apartheid-imposed disadvantage.

This unique form of disadvantage may have been compounded in certain cases by conditions not immediately apparent as disadvantage.

Hypothetically, an institution may have been hard-hit infrastructurally with buildings and management information systems at odds with the demands of a 20th-century higher education institution.

This is immediately apparent when walking into and interacting with some of the historically disadvantaged institutions.

These disadvantages may be worsened by an inadequate resource centre, itself a creator of further disadvantage – through acting as a disin-

centive for academics and researchers of note to opt for positions at that institution.

The very location of the institution, quite often out of the way, may be another disadvantage.

Proper redress has to be targeted if it is to be effective, and targeted redress is dependent on a clearly defined set of measurable areas of historical disadvantage – but with the present and future direction uppermost in mind.

The point is that historical disadvantage has to be addressed in the context of the present and future plans of the institution. For example, while past disadvantage may have denied the opportunity of establishing an engineering faculty to an institution, it would be shortsighted to argue for the establishment of that faculty now simply because the institution can secure support for it.

Present conditions have to be respected and some of these are in a policy environment of a single articulated higher education system.

It seems necessary, therefore, for each institution to do a quantity and quality survey of its situation and cost the necessary reparation bill if sensible redress is to be effected.

The alternative is a situation where there shall always be a hullabaloo about historical disadvantage and the necessary redress without the participants properly understanding one another.

An argument may be advanced that the very disadvantaged situation of the institutions mitigates against them managing the process of self-auditing.

This point is valid but it also shows the need for technical assistance via education and organisational systems consultants. This is a facility utilised by even the best performing organisations worldwide.

As a collective the institutions have commissioned and received the results of a study into their historical disadvantage in such areas as research and quality of staff.

That approach, however, merely addresses areas of overlap and not the individual institutional idiosyncrasies. It can only succeed if it is complemented by looking at the uniqueness of some of our historically disadvantaged institutions.

(The author works for the Department of Education and the article is written in his personal capacity.)

# Rectors' remuneration

AT LEAST nine university rectors earned a gross income of between R632 000 and R842 000 last year, the SA Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association revealed yesterday.

This amount excluded a 13th annual cheque, the association said in Pretoria.

It said the gross annual package included salary and cash bonuses, retirement funding, insurance policies, medical aid, housing perks and entertainment allowances.

The top nine earners were the rectors of the universities of Cape Town, Natal, Pretoria, Stellenbosch, South

Africa, Vista University, the Medical University of Southern Africa, the Rand Afrikaans University and University of the North.

SAUVCA said the salary figures were recently provided to the Heath special investigative unit which was probing claims of financial irregularities at the University of the North.

One of the allegations is that the rector's income is excessive.

Heath unit spokesman Guy Rich said the figures were requested in order to compare the salaries of university rectors.

"We received the information about three weeks ago, and our inves-

tigation is continuing," he said.

The SAUVCA list included all the country's universities, except Fort Hare which is the subject of a separate inquiry.

Another nine rectors earned between R474 000 and R631 000. They are those of the universities of the Witwatersrand, Potchefstroom, Orange Free State, Port Elizabeth, Venda, Durban-Westville, Rhodes, Western Cape and Zululand.

The universities of the North West and Transkei were at the bottom of the list, with rector salaries of between R355 000 and R473 000. —

Sapa

54 (128)  
Sapa

---

# Rectors' remuneration

AT LEAST nine university rectors earned a gross income of between R632 000 and R842 000 last year, the SA Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association revealed yesterday.

This amount excluded a 13th annual cheque, the association said in Pretoria.

It said the gross annual package included salary and cash bonuses, retirement funding, insurance policies, medical aid, housing perks and entertainment allowances.

The top nine earners were the rectors of the universities of Cape Town, Natal, Pretoria, Stellenbosch, South

Africa, Vista University, the Medical University of Southern Africa, the Rand Afrikaans University and University of the North.

SAUVCA said the salary figures were recently provided to the Heath special investigative unit which was probing claims of financial irregularities at the University of the North.

One of the allegations is that the rector's income is excessive.

Heath unit spokesman Guy Rich said the figures were requested in order to compare the salaries of university rectors.

"We received the information about three weeks ago, and our inves-

tigation is continuing," he said.

The SAUVCA list included all the country's universities, except Fort Hare which is the subject of a separate inquiry.

Another nine rectors earned between R474 000 and R631 000. They are those of the universities of the Witwatersrand, Potchefstroom, Orange Free State, Port Elizabeth, Venda, Durban-Westville, Rhodes, Western Cape and Zululand.

The universities of the North West and Transkei were at the bottom of the list, with rector salaries of between R355 000 and R473 000. — Sapa

54 (128)  
SAUVCA



# UCT head (128) among (54) top varsity

## earners

ARG 29/6/99

Pretoria - At least nine university rectors earned a gross income of between R632 000 and R842 000 last year, the SA Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association revealed yesterday.

It said the gross annual package included salary and cash bonuses, retirement funding, insurance policies, medical aid, housing perks and entertainment allowances, but excluded a 13th annual cheque.

The top nine earners were the rectors of the universities of Cape Town, Natal, Pretoria, Stellenbosch, South Africa, Vista University, the Medical University of Southern Africa, the Rand Afrikaans University and the University of the North.

The association said the salary figures were recently revealed to the Heath Special Investigating Unit, which was probing claims of financial irregularities at the University of the North. One of the allegations was that the rector's income was too high.

Heath unit spokesperson Guy Rich said the figures were requested in order to compare the salaries of university rectors.

The association list included all the country's universities, except Fort Hare, which is the subject of a separate inquiry.

Another nine rectors earned between R474 000 and R631 000 each at the universities of the Witwatersrand, Potchefstroom, Orange Free State, Port Elizabeth, Venda, Durban-Westville, Rhodes, Western Cape and Zululand.

The universities of the North West and Transkei were at the bottom of the list, with salaries for rectors of between R355 000 and R473 000.

The association said: "Universities have now been called upon to provide actual figures to be presented in an internationally accepted format which can then be made public.

"It is expected that the final phase - the disclosure of vice-chancellor remuneration packages - will be completed in early August." - Sapa

# Gerwel set for double varsity job

(74)  
ARG 117/99

CHARLES PHAHLANE

**Jakes Gerwel, director-general to former president Nelson Mandela, served his last day as a civil servant yesterday and may return to the University of the Western Cape as a professor.**

Professor Gerwel announced that the University of Cape Town had appointed him as Distinguished Professor of Humanities attached to the department of Dutch and Afrikaans, but that discussions were under way to convert the position to a joint appointment with UWC.

Professor Gerwel was vice-chancellor of UWC before joining Mr Mandela's office in 1994.

He also chairs the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Conflicts. He said the centre had invited him to help in the co-ordination of its African preventative diplomacy programmes.

Professor Gerwel was credited with behind-the-scenes negotiations that led to a breakthrough in the stand-off between Libya and the United States and Britain over the Lockerbie bomb explosion.

Libya allowed the Lockerbie bomb suspects to stand trial in the Netherlands, under Scottish law.

Professor Gerwel said he would also be involved in the boards of three other private concerns on a non-executive basis.

# Shake-up for Cape colleges

## Teacher training rationalised

LINDA VERGMAN

Contributing Editor

ARG 117/199

The Western Cape's three teacher training colleges are likely to be incorporated into the Cape and Peninsula technikons, according to plans announced by new national Education Minister Kader Asmal.

Mr Asmal has invited representations on plans to declare the Cape Town College of Education and the Onderwyskollege Boland in Wellington as sub-divisions of the Cape Technikon, and to convert the Western Cape College of Education into a sub-division of the Peninsula Technikon.

As part of plans for the rationalisation of South Africa's tertiary education sector, the number of colleges of education will be reduced from 76 to around 20. Most will be incorporated into universities and technikons.

Ahmed Essop, chief director of higher education in the national education department, says the move will bring the surviving colleges of education into the higher education system for the first time and "lead to a major restructuring of teacher education and improvement in the quality of teacher training".

In terms of the Higher Education Act, most colleges of education will become sub-divisions of universities or technikons while a few will become independent public higher education institutions.

All the colleges will in future fall under jurisdiction of the national education department instead of the provinces.

There is concern among some educationalists that the massive rationalisation of colleges of education could lead to a shortage of primary school teachers within a few years. The colleges, including many previously segregated and homeland institutions, produce the bulk of the country's primary school teachers, while most high school teachers are products of universities and technikons.

But Mr Essop says the technikons and universities together with the remaining colleges are able to provide sufficient teachers to supply demand. "If there is a need for more teachers in future we can plan ahead and expand the capacity of these institutions."

On Tuesday Mr Asmal advertised details of his plan to declare specific colleges of education in five provinces as public higher education institutions. In most cases the colleges will be incorporated into universities and technikons from January 2000.

Professor Brian Figaji, vice-chancellor of the Peninsula Technikon, said while Pentech had had preliminary discussions with the Western Cape College of Education, it would now start discussions with the education department about what it intended to do and "what we want to do".

People would be able to object to the process and raise their concerns before anything was finalised.

Professor Figaji said in terms of an agreement with the Cape Technikon, Pentech currently concentrated on training high school science, maths and technology teachers and wanted to continue specialising in this. Training primary school teachers was a new field "and we are happy to do it".

Willie Smith, associate director of commercial education at the Cape Technikon said the Cape Town and Boland education colleges had opted to seek incorporation into the Cape Technikon's School of Teacher Education and "we've accepted that".

Mr Smith said that the move would

definitely lead to an upgrading of teacher education. The technikon would draw up a new teacher training curriculum in consultation with the two colleges and students would qualify with a national diploma, enabling them to teach pupils up to grade nine. Basil May, executive director of the Committee of College of Education Rectors of South Africa, said while his group supported rationalisation it was concerned that it had not been consulted. Mr May said the committee, which represents the rectors of the remaining colleges of education, had been "excluded" by government from negotiations about the future of the colleges.

On the one hand, Mr May said: "We support rationalisation because of the way the apartheid government went about establishing colleges of education." There was a massive duplication of facilities which the country could not afford.

But on the other hand his committee believed there had been a lack of centralised planning. "The government is being over-hasty in getting rid of colleges built with taxpayers' money. It is almost exclusively the historically advantaged colleges that are being incorporated into technikons and universities while the historically disadvantaged colleges are uncertain about their futures. So the divide between the haves and have-nots continues."

Mr May said between 1994 and 1998 the number of colleges had decreased from 96 to 76 nationally and the number of students had dropped from 86 680 to 31 824.

"Our sense is that in five years, if the government's policies work out, there will be a shortage of teachers. We

believe the college infrastructure should be retained as much as possible so that if there is a need, more teachers can be produced."

Professor Albert Weideman, professor of didactics at the University of the Western Cape,

said the colleges of education had been "tossed around politically since 1910". The effort by government to take them out of the political arena and include them in the tertiary sector was "laudable".

But he was concerned that the government might cause a future shortage of primary school teachers. "I have a suspicion that they may have turned the supply tap off and that could quite quickly impact on the number of professionals available. If we don't do something about it now, by the year 2005 we will have a shortage of up to 13 000 secondary school teachers."

"If you rationalise the colleges of education you will turn off the supply tap for primary school teachers and increase the potential deficit."

"At the moment you rationalise on the scale they intend doing, you are preventing people choosing teaching as a career. My forecast is that in the next four years we will be facing one of the biggest crises in teacher supply in our history."

But Mr Essop contended: "The fact we need more teachers in future is not merely dependent on keeping all 76 colleges open. We will have to ensure that the existing institutions - technikons, universities and remaining independent colleges - have the capacity to produce the teachers."

Mr Essop said the national teacher education audit of 1995 showed that "in general the standard of teacher training was abysmal". In most cases colleges had been run like schools by provincial education departments.

Incorporating colleges into universities and technikons would "contribute to focusing on quality".

**If you rationalise the colleges, you will turn off the supply tap for primary school teachers'**

# Student in sex-for-sale row readmitted

LENORE OLIVER AND LYNNETTE JOHNS

**Peninsula Technikon journalism student Max Hamata, expelled for writing about the problems of prostitution on campus, is to apply to the Cape High Court to have his expulsion set aside.**

Yesterday Mr Hamata obtained an interim order that he be reinstated so that he could start an internship this week as a trainee journalist with the Mail & Guardian.

An internal disciplinary hearing held by the technikon in November recommended that he be expelled.

He was later suspended pending the outcome of his appeal. (54)

Mr Hamata refused to attend the disciplinary hearing, as the committee would not allow his lawyer to represent him. It ruled only a student or a staff member was allowed to represent him.

He was then found guilty of having published an article in the Mail & Guardian without verifying the accuracy of his information. The article was therefore based on falsehood, the hearing found.

Today his lawyer, Jacques Louw, said they were waiting for the

ARGT 2/7/99  
technikon to deliver the record of the disciplinary hearing. They would then approach the High Court for a full reinstatement order.

In his Mail & Guardian article, Mr Hamata quoted students who he said told him they sold their bodies to pay for clothing, accommodation and food.

Mr Hamata was also accused of having misled people whom he interviewed, deliberately distorting the facts and obtaining information through dishonest methods.

The technikon also accused him of bringing its name into disrepute.

# Student to be reinstated

RONALD MORRIS

(54)  
ET 2/7/99

A NAMIBIAN journalism student at the Peninsula Technikon, who was expelled after he co-wrote an article on prostitution on the campus, will start his newspaper internship today following a Cape High Court order that he be reinstated.

Deputy Judge President Justice John Hlophe made the interim order after Max Hamata and the *Mail and Guardian* brought an urgent application for his reinstatement. The order will remain in place pending the hearing of an application which he, together with the Freedom of Expression Institute — which funds his legal fees — must bring within 14 days failing which the order shall lapse.

The technikon did, however, not admit that Hamata was entitled to the relief sought, or that the allegations made by him in court papers were true.

The application would be against the chairpersons of the Internal Disciplinary Committee, (IDC) the technikon's Council Disciplinary Committee (CDC) and the Technikon Council.

Hamata told the court the article referred to prostitution on campuses of South African institutions of higher education, with a fair proportion of the article discussing practices uncovered by him at the Peninsula Technikon's campus.

The article was published in the *Mail and Guardian* in December last year.

When he appeared before an internal

disciplinary inquiry he was not allowed to have his attorney Jacques Louw present on the grounds that he could only be represented by a student or staff member. The hearing continued without him and Louw. He was subsequently notified that he had been found "guilty" and later "guilty as charged" for having published an article without verifying the correctness of the information and that it was therefore based on falsehood.

He was also accused of having misled people whom he interviewed, deliberately distorting the facts and obtaining information through dishonest methods.

In addition, he was accused of having brought the technikon's name into disrepute, of having no explanation for his actions and of showing no remorse. He was expelled with immediate effect.

In January this year the CDC upheld the IDC's findings and penalty and an appeal to the Technikon Council was unsuccessful.

Hamata said the technikon did not appear to have appreciated that when he wrote the article he was acting first as a journalist, and as a student second.

The technikon's heavy-handed actions would inevitably lead to student journalists censoring themselves and the stories they cover. He accused the technikon of not tolerating freedom of expression, violating his right to just administrative action, failing to give him a fair hearing and of lacking impartiality.

# Running a campus can put you in the pound seats

CORNIA PRIETORIOUS (54)

(128)

HALF of South Africa's 21 university vice-chancellors earn more than directors-general in the public service, High Court judges and the chief superintendent of Chris Hani Baragwanath — the biggest hospital in the southern hemisphere.

Some even earn more than President Thabo Mbeki and his Cabinet ministers and as much as captains of industry.

This week the South African Universities' Vice-Chancellors Association revealed for the first time the 1998 salary bands of 20 vice-chancellors with gross salaries ranging from R355 000 to R842 000.

According to the association, the nine best-paying universities are: Cape Town, Medunsa, Natal, the North, Pretoria, RAU, Stellenbosch, Unisa and Vista.

Among the highest earners is Dr Biki Minyuku of the University of the North, who this year earns a total of R918 527.

The University of the North, however, has been haunted by alleged financial mismanage-

ment involving millions of rands. It is being probed by both the Health Investigating Unit and the auditor-general.

The salaries of vice-chancellors are set by councils, usually by their remuneration committees, which in the case of the nine institutions paid their heads R632 000 to R842 000 last year.

The Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers, responsible for recommending what politicians should earn, said the President earned R698 586. Cabinet ministers' packages amount to R582 507, which include state pension contributions.

However, public office-bearers have perks, like air tickets, which boost their total packages substantially.

Directors-general earn about R551 460 annually. High Court judges are paid about R396 880 and the chief superintendent of Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital earns R308 923.

In the private sector, re-



ST 4/7/99

search just published by Sibson & Company found that the average CEO of one of the top 300 listed companies earned about R880 000 a year, excluding share options and bonuses, which have a major impact on real income.

The majority of universities which had to appoint new vice-chancellors in the past few years found it was increasingly difficult to attract top-class leaders to "hostile campuses".

Vice-chancellors had to be compensated for giving up careers in the academic and business worlds that would be hard to return to after they had completed their contracts.

But institutions are reluctant to disclose details of salaries — though they are heavily state-funded.

Two of the nine best-paying institutions, the University of the North and the University of Pretoria, revealed what their respective heads, Minyuku and Professor Johan van Zyl, pocket annually.

Minyuku, the former CEO of the truth commission, earns R585 000 plus benefits, totalling R918 527 (Savva's figures do not include 1999 packages). Following accusations about irregularities in Minyuku's appointment, the university council asked the Health Unit to investigate Minyuku's package and the Public Protector to look into the alleged irregularities in his appointment.

Benny Boshiele, the acting chairman of the university's council, said the university had nothing to hide.

It was important to pay a vice-chancellor well, he said. "When you appoint one, you throw him or her into a hostile environment. It doesn't matter which institution we are talking about. We needed somebody with a corporate mind. We didn't only need an academic. It is quite hard to find such people."

Minyuku said he did not join the university for the money. "It is my alma mater. It is a challenge to produce top people for politics and business."

Van Zyl, who joined the University of Pretoria in 1997, gets a total package of R714 199. Of that, he spends an estimated R100 000 on duties benefiting the university, leaving him with an actual salary before tax of about R600 000.

Van Zyl said the salaries vice-chancellors earned were justifiable.

"The University of Pretoria has a business turnover of more than R1-billion a year, [and] we have more than 4 000 personnel. It is a complex environment to work in and you expose yourself to a lot of criticism."

Professor Brenda Gourley, vice-chancellor of the University of Natal, indicated that she would release details of her package if other university and technical heads did the same and the council decided to release salary details.

The University of Natal said a senior medical school professor's package was around R500 000, excluding income from limited private practice. A senior professor's package was around R294 000 — to which, in some cases, might be added salary subventions of between R36 000 and R60 000, as well as income from private consultancy work.

Desmond Smith, chairman of the University of Stellenbosch's council and former MD of insurance giant Sanlam, said vice-chancellors "definitely don't earn too much".

The University of Cape Town said its head, Dr Mamphele Ramphele, did not earn too much as her fundraising efforts alone annually resulted in funds amounting to millions of rands. Furthermore, he said, her salary was below the average salary for CEOs of companies of similar size.

Martin Westcott, MD of PE Corporate Services, said: "If [vice-chancellors] pay] compares well with what people in comparable positions with comparable responsibilities earn in the private sector, but people in the private sector have benefits such as profit sharing and share options, which don't exist in the university sector."

See page 1 of Business Times Appointments section.

# Top academic in R20m funding

Another corruption row has erupted at the cash-strapped University of the North. Evidence wa ka Ngobeni reports

MTG 2-8/7/99 (54)

**O**ne of South Africa's most respected academics, former University of the North vice-chancellor Njabulo Ndebele, is embroiled in a row surrounding the illicit transfer of R20-million of university funds into a private education company.

Ndebele, who retired from the university last year, is a director of the company Edupark, which hosts lectures and leases property to other South African universities. However, he was not paid for this directorship.

His former right-hand man, John Wiltshire, the university's head of development and public affairs, was the other founding director.

Wiltshire will be earning a salary as the company's new CEO, according to documents in the possession of a commission of inquiry

R15-million pay-out from its coffers in 1996 for building costs was never approved and the university's council never knew that Ndebele and Wiltshire were directors.

There is no contract between the university and Edupark, which means that Edupark is under no obligation to share its profits with the institution.

The documents that form part of the inquiry's findings accuse Ndebele of acting "against the interests of the university and in the interest of Edupark company, which would be enriched to the tune of R15-million at the expense of the university".

The university also bankrolled R800 000 for a sumptuous fundraising banquet for Edupark at Gallagher Estate in Midrand. It was attended by various dignitaries, including for mer president Nelson Mandela, who is still the university's chancellor, and newly appointed Minister of Education Kader Asmal, who was then the chair of the university council.

The University of the North is saddled with a

student debt backlog of more than R99-million and a massive financial deficit, and is in desperate need of new facilities, including a library. However, the university paid Edupark R95 575 in rent for three months for its Leadership School.

Senior officials on the university's council this week confirmed Ndebele had transferred the money without the council's proper authorisation.

Although the University of the North originally agreed to set up Edupark, its founding documents make no mention of the university and do not feature a proper loan agreement.

"The fact that the name of the university does not even appear in the documents of Edupark may well suggest that the people involved may have not wanted the truth about the involvement of the university in Edupark known," said Benny Boshieho, chair of the university's council.

Boshieho said the university council "never authorised millions of rands to be given to Edupark, and there are no documents to prove that the university council has done that".

# scandal

Student representative council spokesperson Lucky Nchabeleng said his organisation suspected there was "something irregular" at Edupark. "Some people were even calling for its closure at some stage. We called for an internal inquiry because the promise by management that Edupark will generate revenue to the university was not forthcoming," said Nchabeleng.

Said the university's Broader Transition Forum's general secretary, Jay Jay Manyisi: "The university council never authorised that the money [R15-million] be spent on Edupark. Council simply gave a guarantee to fund the first phase of Edupark."

Edupark has had three board meetings since 1996 and is registered as a Section 21 company. Wiltshire and Ndebele were the only directors until 1998, when they appointed additional members.

It was in one of these meetings that Wiltshire was promoted to take up a full-time post as CEO of Edupark. Boshieho said the university council did not appoint any-



**Implicated: Former University of the North vice-chancellor Njabulo Ndebele is embroiled in a row over the illicit transfer of R20-million of university funds**

thorised by the university council. Wiltshire this week denied receipt of this R5-million.

The University of the North also leases facilities at the Edupark complex, which is

situated in the Pietersburg CBD.

University sources say there is no contract agreement for the university to rent facilities at Edupark.

# UWC research helps spot a 'blindness gene'

Cutting-edge SA bio-computing leads to a discovery which has eluded scientists for 20 years

## STAFF REPORTER

Researchers at the University of the Western Cape have played a key role in identifying a gene that causes retinitis pigmentosa - a form of blindness - using South African cutting-edge computer technology.

The discovery, which has eluded scientists for 20 years, means a drug may be developed to treat the condition.

Retinitis pigmentosa is among

the most common forms of inherited blindness, affecting about one in 4000 people worldwide. This means at least 10 000 South Africans must be affected.

Separate reports by competing teams looking for the gene have been published in the July issue of the journal Nature Genetics.

Lori Sullivan of the University of Texas Health Science Centre and Winston Hide of the SA National Bioinformatics Institute at UWC used bio-computing techniques

developed here to make their discovery.

In the other report, Eric Pierce and colleagues at the Boston Children's Hospital showed how mutations in the gene cause the RP1 form of the disease.

Dr Hide said children born with RP went blind gradually, some at the age of 10, others at 15 or 20. "Until now, there has been nothing we could do about it."

Although many genetic causes underlying various forms of RP

have been identified, the new finding has detected a type of gene involved in eye development. The scientists identified mutations in a gene in their patients.

They showed that one of these genes, expressed specifically during retinal development, was mutated in human RP1 patients.

They then employed computer-generated virtual genes to understand the effect of the mutations and other genes like the RP1 gene.

Dr Hide said the identification of

the gene opened the way for the development of a drug to prevent RP. "This discovery gives hope to people that have just found out they have RP."

He said he and his colleagues would now investigate how the gene affected the development of the eye.

According to Dr Hide, the RP-mutated gene shortens a protein which is normally functional in the eye. Because it is too short, it does not work properly as the eye ages.

The latest research was done as

part of a global effort, known as the Human Genome Project, to map human genes.

Key to the find was a supercomputer that analyses electronic versions of thousands of human genes.

Computers are used for all studies of human genetics and the National Bioinformatics Institute at UWC is emerging as a world leader in this powerful new technology.

The institute has developed an electronic library of electronically simulated human genes, which is

used at research institutions worldwide including Harvard, Cambridge and the Pasteur Institute.

The RP finding will enhance UWC's reputation as a centre of research excellence. "In three years we have climbed to become one of the top six research universities in South Africa," said Renfrew Christie, Dean of Research.

"This report in Nature Genetics vindicates our strategy of focused re-development and support of excellence."

ARG 6/7/99 (54)



# Transnet, Zenex help for Univen

By DAN RADINKU

INFORMATION Technology is a new buzz word but any university taking its tuition seriously, would be proud to have this service in its curriculum.

This week, the University of Venda received 17 high-powered computers worth R250 000 from the giant transport organisation, Transnet.

This is the second instalment of the same amount that has been donated to the university in the last two years.

Heading the Transnet team was managing director, Saki Macozoma who was received by the university's senior staff, led by deputy vice-chancellor and vice-principal, Dvvhani Thakhathi.

Macozoma said his personal relationship with the university started long ago when he met current Univen

principal Glessler Nkondo while studying in Boston.

He said it was Nkondo, the late Steve Biko and Cyril Ramaphosa (the vice-chancellor of Univen) who endeared this university to him.

The computers will be used by the department of business management and the school of mathematics and the natural sciences.

Dean of the department, Professor Jan Jacobs said this would step up their tuition performance as the university had already linked up with Georgia State University on an exchange programme.

Zenex had also donated R2 million for erecting a new science centre.

This building will open doors for students to study astronomy, linking up with the University of Cape Town to provide expert tuition.

# University head's pay remains a secret

By MALOSE MONAMA

THE remuneration package of the vice-chancellor of cash-strapped Fort Hare University - believed to be one of the highest for South African tertiary institutions - remains a closely-guarded secret, despite all other universities disclosing what they pay their most senior staff.

A recent media statement released by the South African Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association (SAUVCA), discloses the remuneration packages of all the university vice-chancellors but that of Fort Hare.

The Eastern Cape university's vice-chancellor is believed to be one of the highest-paid principals in the land despite the institution's sorry state of finances.

Fort Hare public relations officer Mbeko Mthanyeli would not reveal what his university paid their most highly ranking staffer, saying the information asked for by City Press was "highly sensitive and would ignite ill-feelings among certain sectors of the university community".

When it was brought to his attention that the other 20 universities in the country had disclosed this information, he said the figures were not available as the remuneration package of the university's vice-chancellor had been determined by an external company and not by council.

Fort Hare is under investigation by the Heath Special Investigation Unit which has requested and received information on the remuneration packages of the vice-chancellors of the other South African universities.

Fort Hare principal Professor



MUM . . . Suspended Fort Hare University principal, Professor Mbulelo Mzamane, believed to be one of the top earners among tertiary institution heads

Mbulelo Mzamane, who is also a subject of investigation by the special investigations unit, is on an "obligatory six months paid leave" while Judge Willem Heath and his team peruse the university records.

The information released by SAUVCA shows that the total remuneration packages of the vice-chancellors of most of the country's universities is more than R500 000 a year. Only the Universities of North West and Transkei pay their principals less than R500 000.

The highest paid vice-chancellors' total remuneration packages hover around the R900 000 mark.

# UWC on road

ARG 8/7/99

# to recovery

# as student

# debt drops

(54)

## Tough medicine saves varsity

**LYNNETTE JOHNS**  
EDUCATION REPORTER

**The University of the Western Cape is clawing its way out of bankruptcy by prescribing some tough medicine – including retrenchments, outsourcing and forcing students to pay outstanding fees.**

UWC was plunged into a financial crisis more than a year ago as student debts mounted to more than R40-million.

This year, the first time in 10 years, students are up to date with their fees for 1998 and 1999 – and the institution says its books will balance within 18 months.

To prevent the university from sliding into bankruptcy, UWC had to introduce tough measures to ensure students paid up.

More than R82-million was collected from students last year after a landmark agreement was signed between the Student Representative Council and the university.

The agreement stipulated that students had to pay a minimum of R2 000 to register (R2 500 for residence students).

Students were told that if they did not pay, they could be faced by a debt collector. If they still did not pay they would be barred from residence or expelled.

Vice-chancellor Cecil Abrahams said students were to pay three instal-

ments a year – and just over 96% of them had paid their first instalment at the beginning of the year.

The second instalment was due next month.

Even though students had paid all their fees for last year some still had fees outstanding from 1996 and 1997.

The university has also slashed 5% from its salary bill by outsourcing five departments.

Professor Abrahams said that after year-long negotiations with the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union, 341 non-academic staff had taken voluntary severance packages and 37 people in the food service department had been retrenched.

During the apartheid era UWC had wanted to ensure decent salaries and benefits, particularly for non-teaching staff, Professor Abrahams said.

This had led to a higher than average salary bill.

But due to the dire financial situation UWC had found itself in last year, the university had had to reduce the salary bill to make itself financially stable and viable.

Departments which had been outsourced were campus protection, food services, garden and grounds, printing and transport.

Professor Abrahams said the university was looking at saving between R18-million and R20-million a year.

Because it had had to pay packages up front its books would balance only within 18 months.

# Department seeks to stamp out fly-by-night operations in education

Primarashni Pillay

(54)

THE education department has registered conditionally five private higher institutions as part of a drive to root out fly-by-night operations.

A senior official in the department said the private institutions had satisfied strict criteria including financial sustainability and the programmes on offer had been accredited by the SA Qualifications Authority.

"The programmes of these five institutions will be reviewed after at least one year," he said. The institutions are

British-based De Montfort University which may offer a certificate and diploma in management studies; a bachelor of business administration and a masters in business administration.

Others are Promat College which may offer a diploma in education, Southern College which may offer a bachelor of business administration, and the Haute Couture School of Fashion Design which may offer a diploma in fashion design.

St Augustine College of SA may offer a master of philosophy and doctorates in applied ethics, culture and educa-

tion, philosophy, religious education and pastoral ministry or theology.

The official in the education department said several other institutions had applied for registration and their applications were being reviewed.

He said the department could vouch for the quality of programmes offered by the five institutions as they had gone through a quality assurance process.

There had in recent years been a proliferation of private institutions which had either been locally based or linked to foreign universities. There had been concern that they were offering

substandard qualifications.

Current legislation required that private higher education institutions — local or foreign — had to register with the education department. The deadline for applications for registration was March 31 this year.

From January next year the department can apply for a court order to shut down an unregistered institution.

There were applications from institutions in Gauteng which had been marketing themselves as universities although they had not yet been registered, thereby misleading the public.

BD 9/7/99

# Asmal to rule on the terms 'university' and 'technikon'

Primarashni Pillay (74)

EDUCATION Minister Kader Asmal will have the final say on how the terms university and technikon are used in the private tertiary education sector in SA.

A flood of overseas and local private higher education institutions have offered courses in SA recently.

The issue of the education department awarding university or technikon status to these institutions has surfaced as a result of current legislation, which requires local and foreign private institutions to be registered with the department. This was part of the department's attempt to stamp out fly-by-night operations offering inferior quality programmes to local students.

A department official said Asmal had requested the Council on Higher Education to advise him on the issue. The official said the public had certain expectations of universities and technikons. It was incumbent on the ministry to ensure the terms university and technikon were not devalued.

This could mean institutions applying for university status might not get it. Several institutions applied for registration with the department and it is believed that some call themselves universities when they operate from premises the size of small houses.

The department has conditionally

registered only five institutions — British-based DeMontfort University, The Haute Couture School of Fashion Design, St Augustine College of SA, Promat College and Southern College.

The criteria for registration are that the institutions have to be financially sustainable and recognised in their country of origin and that their programmes get accreditation by the SA Qualifications Authority.

St Augustine College is to be launched officially tomorrow but not as a university as initially advertised. "We were told a week ago that the status of a university could not be granted to us. We will have to make a public statement that we're a college," said college head Edith Raidt.

Meanwhile, the Johannesburg-based African Media University is also waiting for registration. Registrar Liesl Göttert is confident of the outcome.

"We exceed the minimum standards," she said, mentioning that the qualifications authority had been slow in benchmarking standards.

From January next year the department will publish the names of registered institutions. "The ministry will thus not be able to vouch for the quality of instruction or qualifications from institutions not on the list," the official said. The department could shut down unregistered private institutions.

BD 12/7/99

# Crackdown on 'varsities'

CORNIA PRETORIUS

(54)

THE Education Department has banned private tertiary institutions from calling themselves universities or technikons.

ST 11/7/99  
Out of about 160 establishments that have applied for accreditation of their programmes since the department moved to regulate private higher education in 1997, five have asked to be known as universities and one

as a technikon.

Several others have indicated an interest in using the terms.

The department, however, has refused their requests, pending an investigation.

Private institutions accused the department of bowing to pressure from public universities and technikons.

But the department denied this, saying that although it saw private institutions as an "integral part of the higher education system", it had a responsibility to ensure that "university" and "technikon" were not "devalued" terms.

It said the policy advisory body, the Council on Higher Education, was considering changes to the Higher Education Act to tighten up control of the sector.

"The registration of private institutions created a new ball game which the legislators didn't think about before," said the council's chief executive officer, Professor Saleem Badat.

The department has granted five institutions conditional registration, pending evaluation of the quality of education they provide. The Registrar of Private Higher Education granted only one permission to operate as a university — the De Montfort University Business School, based in Britain.

---

## Debt prompts Zululand university lay-off plan

**Primarashni Pillay**

MORE than 200 staff members at the University of Zululand could face retrenchment this year as part of the university's plan to pull itself out of a financial crisis.

University spokesman Carl de Villiers said yesterday that the proposed retrenchments were a result of declining student numbers, a decreasing government subsidy and a student debt burden of more

than R50m. Student numbers had dropped from 6 600 last year to just more than 5 000 this year. "Our survival is under threat and we have to cut off the fat," he said.

Consultants had been called in to assess the situation and should their proposals be accepted by the university's management and council, mechanisms for retrenchment could be in place by the end of next month.

The university has about 1 200

staff members, including academic, administration, cleaning and gardening staff.

The layoffs may affect cleaners and gardeners in particular as this area would be outsourced.

De Villiers said voluntary severance packages would be offered prior to forced retrenchments.

High student intake in commerce, science and law meant that these departments were unlikely to face staff cuts.

---

BD 14/7/99 (54)

# Students owe <sup>(54)</sup> *Sowetan 12/7/99* whopping R216-m

**By Victor Mecoamere**  
Education Correspondent

TERTIARY institutions, including eight that are jointly owed about R216 million in student fees, have adopted several debt-recovery measures, *Sowetan* has learned.

Registered students owe the University of Zululand R53 million and non-registered students owe R43 million, meaning that the school is currently reeling under a R96 million deficit. It was owed R55, 27 million in 1997 and R54, 99 last year.

Vaal Triangle Technikon media officer Mrs. Anne Naidoo said the technikon was owed R30 million.

Fort Hare University registrar Mr Allan Shaw said his institution was struggling to recover R29 million.

The fourth largest debt owed to a tertiary institution – R25-m – is affecting the University of the North West's economic viability, said its spokesman Mr Rankoa Molefe.

And the fifth largest debt – R20 million – is owed to University of Port Elizabeth.

Smaller amounts are owed to Pretoria University (R9 million) and Wits University (R6,48 million).

*Sowetan* could not establish how much Technikon Northern Gauteng is owed but the technikon is employing drastic measures to recover student debt.

Its acting deputy director of public affairs and marketing, Ms Deadre Bekker, said students owing the school would not be allowed to sit for examinations in November unless 75 percent of the debt was paid. Then examination results would be withheld and students with outstanding fees from the previous years would not be allowed to register for the year 2000.

Shaw said Fort Hare University students with a fee debt would not be allowed to reg-

ister for the second semester, which starts this month.

Spokesperson for the University of the Witwatersrand, Ms Martha Molete, said: "The internal credit control department was following up on the fee backlog but although the university withheld results, no successful student would be barred from re-registering to study because they can apply for a 'roll-over loan' to start paying back the following year."

University of Port Elizabeth communication manager Ms Samantha Venter said: "Measures to collect include withholding examination results and certificates until fees are paid. This is negotiated with students."

University of Zululand public affairs manager Mr Carl de Villiers said the R96 million debt would be reduced when the university receives a R16 million grant from the Tertiary Education Fund soon.

De Villiers, who did not specify his school's debt-recovery measures, said registered students had until the end of August to pay their final instalments for this year.

Naidoo said the Vaal Triangle Technikon intended striking a deal with their students on a suitable way of recovery.

South African Students Congress president Mr Gilbert Kganyago said the congress had in the past recommended that institutions and the Government should assist needy students: "Also, much as we support some of the methods used by the institutions to recover the debts, these have negative socio-economic implications. Most students live and study in poverty and cannot afford the fees although they are academically deserving," said Kganyago.

He was also critical of the criteria that most institutions employed in the selection of students who were given the Tertiary Education Fund For South Africa (Tefsa) loans.

# Rhodes appoints a very competent economic newsmen

By QUENTIN WRAY

GRAHAMSTOWN - Properly trained financial journalists must underpin South Africa's economic transformation by providing accurate, contextualised and sharply interpreted financial news.

Newly appointed Pearson Chair of Economic Journalism at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, Nixon Kariithi said that training of new financial journalists and retraining of those already in harness was important because "new times require new ways of thinking".

Kariithi, 34, came to the Rhodes Journalism and Media Studies Department after an international career which exposed him to both first and third world realities.

Before moving to Rhodes he was

a researcher with the University of Houston's Energy Institute where he worked on the multimillion dollar Best Practices Project.

He was the weekend copy editor at the *Houston Chronicle* and the *This Weekend* sections of the newspaper and a research fellow at Columbia University's Freedom Forum Media Studies Center in New York.

During his fellowship he researched African media systems and contemporary issues in African political and economic development.

While there he wrote a book manuscript, several book chapters and numerous papers on international communications issues as well as lecturing occasionally on foreign reporting and international

relations to journalism students. Before moving to the US, Kariithi was deputy editor of *The Economic Review* in Nairobi which he co-founded with two other economic journalists.

Between 1989 and 1992 he was senior economic writer and deputy business and economic editor of *The Daily Nation* in Nairobi.

He started there after a stint as business and economic reporter at *The Financial Review*, a business and economic weekly publication that was banned in April 1989 by the Kenyan Government for its forthright editorial policy.

Kariithi has completed his PhD dissertation in Political Science at the University of Houston, Texas.

He also holds an MA in Political Science from University of Hous-

ton, Texas and an MA in Journalism Studies from the University of Wales, Cardiff, UK.

He got his BA in Economics at the University of Nairobi, Kenya in 1989.

Kariithi said financial journalists provided a critical input into businesses' decision-making processes and this gave them a far greater responsibilities compared to those faced by "normal" journalists.

Financial journalism was not about breaking stories in the same way as hard news reporting was, but rather about how business stories evolved incrementally and how what happened before framed latest developments.

Kariithi said financial writers had been known to spread both

panic and false optimism in the markets and this necessitated a sober recognition of the basic rules of accuracy, cross-checking of information and proper understanding of the facts.

This relied on writers getting information from as wide a range of people as possible.

"Good decisions need good information,"

Kariithi criticised journalists' eagerness to editorialise rather than seeking a broad range of opinions. "These make the story complete and give readers multiple viewpoints which leave them able to place themselves in the spectrum."

Kariithi also warned financial journalists to avoid trying to take

the place of financial analysts.

"We will never play God with what people do with their money. In the same vein they (financial analysts) will never be able to do what we do - give a broad perspective."

"Our role is to give a broad, well-articulated coverage of issues."

Kariithi said the standard of financial and economic journalism across the board was not very good. "It suffers from the well-known South African disease in that it talks over the head of the majority of people."

"It doesn't recognise the millions of people who don't invest in the stock market."

"Do black unemployed young South Africans consume media? The answer is: yes, of course they

do!"

He excluded specialist publications from this criticism, and directed it at general media organisations, especially radio.

However, specialist business media organisations did not escape unscathed.

He said they had "lost their inquisitive sense of journalism" and relied too heavily on press releases to fill up space.

While he recognised the financial stress media organisations were under, Kariithi said the solution to this was not to lower standards but rather to find new markets and new ways of selling their product.

"Clearly there is scope to be more creative. We must protect our credibility at all costs." - ECN Weekend

(54) CP 18/17/99



THIRTEEN technical colleges, which are nationally located within the townships for easy access to the previously disadvantaged communities, are now participating in the Technopreneur Programme.

The programme, launched in 1996, is implemented in partnership with Ntsika Entrepise Promotion Agency, National Productivity Institute, the South African Bureau of Standards, the Department of

Trade and Industry, the Department of Labour, the Department of Education and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The skills prioritised are in line with the economic needs and development of the local community.

For example, the construction-oriented skills are emphasised in

## Thirteen colleges join job-creation drive (173)

areas that are actively involved with housing development.

Skills training is done in line with market needs and sustainability. These skills are then complemented with entrepreneurial skills to assist the trainee to potentially establish his/her own enterprise.

Another phase of the programme

entails the maintenance and supervision of these potential entrepreneurs to manage contracts secured by the technical colleges through the private sector or government.

Twenty-eight skills courses have been run nationally and 1 803 people have been trained.

About 456 entrepreneurs have set up their own businesses and 455 jobs have been created during the

1998/1999 period.

SP 18/7/99

# Azapo cash scandal

Sowetan 20/7/99 (74)

## By Khathu Mamaila

**T**HE University of Venda has accused the Azanian People's Organisation of instructing the Azanian Student Convention-dominated SRC to channel R100 000 to Azapo for its election campaign.

In a damning report leaked to *Sowetan*, Univen students affairs director Mr TJ Nnzeru said: "When the preparations for the freshers' ball commenced, they (SRC members) were instructed by their political organisation to siphon off an amount of R100 000 from the SRC coffers in order to enable a cash-strapped Azapo to register for provincial and national elections."

His report does not say how much the SRC was allocated for the ball, but it points out that the students spent R446 388,41 for the event. He stressed that further investigations had to be

done to check out all claims of payment.

Nnzeru also described the provincial political commissar of Azapo Mr Thivhilaeli Mutobvu as "a parasite", adding that Mutobvu used the SRC office as his political base. Mutobvu had been barred from entering the university premises.

Nnzeru described SRC members as "puppets who were serving the needs of Azasco and Azapo". He added that student politics had deteriorated to such an extent that they consulted their political principals on every issue under discussion.

Virtually all members of the SRC at Univen are members of Azasco, a student wing of Azapo.

Azapo chairman in the province Mr Don Nkadimeng said: "The report was written with malice and with the single intention of

destroying the credibility of Azapo for ever in the eyes of the public. We are taking advice on the matter."

Univen spokesman Mr Mbangiseni Masia said yesterday that disciplinary hearings into the matter had already begun.

The university launched an investigation into the SRC affairs following allegations of misappropriation of funds during the organising of the freshers' ball. Three SRC members were accused of trying to inflate quotes so that they could pocket the difference between the actual costs and the inflated figures.

Azasco suspended the three members from its ranks and the SRC also suspended them pending a disciplinary inquiry.

Nnzeru has recommended a further inquiry into the matter but his report was critical of the entire SRC and Azasco. "My assessment of the

situation is that the entire SRC is tainted. There is no pure soul. Even the so-called innocent Jane knew of the master plan to squeeze R100 000 from SRC funds," he said in the report.

Approached for comment, SRC general secretary Mr Pule Radingoana said: "We are very disappointed in the manner in which Nnzeru handled the issue. He has allowed himself to be carried away and clouded the real issue at hand. "He was supposed to have investigated the allegation against those accused of embezzlement of funds.

"He paints a picture of a corrupt SRC while in fact it was the SRC that acted against the three students accused of financial irregularities.

"It is difficult to understand how Azasco and Azapo are brought into the picture. We can only conclude that he has another motive that we might not be aware of."

CORNIA PRETORIUS

# University of Spenda

**O**NLY a year after President Thabo Mbeki lambasted students at the University of Venda for boozing, its student representative council spent about R450 000 on a campus ball and 12 beers each for those attending.

Three student leaders were suspended after the dance — into allegations, among others, that they ran up a phone bill of R1 693 while staying at a three-star hotel at the university's expense on a trip to Johannesburg to organise music for the ball.

The SRC also allegedly

siphoned off R100 000 of students' money to a political party for election expenses.

Mbeki lashed out at the students in June last year after they burnt down offices on campus, demanding R500 000 for a freshers' ball and 30 cans of beer for each student.

"The time has come to call and impose a halt to the abuse

of freedom in the name of an entitlement," he said.

The expenditure on this year's dance, detailed in a report by the director of student affairs, John Nzzeru, has plunged the cash-strapped university into fresh controversy.

The report claims that, despite a limit of R400 000 set by the university's management,

the SRC blew R450 000 of its budget — funded by a R200 levy on students — on the May 7 dance to welcome first years.

Of that, R129 000 went on liquor and R274 450 on performers, sound system and a production fee. The balance paid for security and other personnel.

According to the SRC, up to 15 000 people attended the par-

Students blow R450 000 on music, booze and staff for freshers' ball

ty. Students attended for free while outsiders paid R20 a head, earning the SRC about R25 000.

Nzzeru's report said the SRC had "pressed hard" for students to get 24 cans of beer each.

It also alleged R100 000 in SRC money was channelled to cash-strapped Azapo to register for the June 2 election.

All the members of the SRC

belong to the Azanian Students' Convention, Azasco, which is the student wing of Azapo.

But Northern Province Azapo chairman Don Nkadameng denied the allegation, claiming members "collected R200 000 out of their own pockets".

On their trip to Johannesburg, the report said, suspended SRC president Mpho

Sakomeng and members Bishop Mushweu and Victor Mokgotla allegedly persuaded the promoter and the artists to inflate their rates to benefit from the differences.

The three are also accused of removing a woollen blanket, a towel and an electric kettle worth R433,65 from the Millpark Holiday Inn in Johannesburg.

The three could not be contacted.

SRC general secretary Pule Radingwana admitted this week that students had asked for 24 beers each, but said the SRC agreed with student affairs that 12 was adequate.

"We don't take the decision about the number of cans. We listen to what the students want and they didn't think it was too much," Radingwana said.

He accused the university's management and Nzzeru of a "political ploy... to discredit the SRC, Azapo and Azasco."

A spokesman for the university, Mbangiseni Masia said investigations into allegations against the three suspended SRC members were continuing.

# University academics face retrenchment

(54)

ARG 24/7/99

## JEAN LE MAY

Academics at the University of Cape Town face an uncertain future after a decision by the university management to cut staff numbers.

An Academic Staff Association spokesman told Saturday Argus that university management had suggested retrenching 49 academic staff

in the humanities faculty - about a fifth of faculty staff - and eight support staff.

Management also suggested creating 13 new academic posts "in strategic areas of the faculty", the spokesman said. The humanities faculty was generally believed to be "overloaded".

The association reminded man-

agement that an agreement was in place that there had to be more consultation before any adjustments were made, he said.

But Wilmot James, dean of humanities, said that there was as yet no talk of "retrenchments".

"It is a restructuring exercise," he said. "We met the faculty and told them that money had to be saved in

its operating budget of R7,7-million, either by staff reductions or by savings in other areas."

Association chairman Nic Marais said that after discussion with the dean, it was agreed that he would re-submit the proposals to the university management. Vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphele was not available for comment yesterday.

# Students threaten to halt classes at UDW

BD 28/7/99

(54)

**Pule Molebeledi  
and Primarashni Pillay**

DURBAN — Students at the University of Durban-Westville (UDW) threatened to halt classes yesterday as tension between the student body and management intensified over outstanding fees.

UDW vice-chancellor Mapule Ramashala said after student protests yesterday the students were putting the "future of the university at risk".

Police had to disperse protesting students who were demanding the vice-rector receive their memorandum.

The student representative council's entertainment and culture spokesman, Xolani Shange, said students were against moves by the university to deregister 67 students who failed to make payment arrangements with the university.

Shange said the students wanted the university to pay the shortfall of R3,5m.

He said the council, which was demanding all academic activity come to a halt until matters were resolved, would meet today with other student formations to chart the way forward.

However, Ramashala said in an attempt to accommodate as many students as possible management had agreed to accept minimal payments from students on the understanding that the outstanding balance would be paid at the end of next month.

"Should this agreement not be honoured by the stipulated date, those in default would be deregistered without further notice," she said. The names of all deregistered students would be re-

moved from class lists.

She said the council approached management two weeks ago and requested the issue of deregistration be put on hold. At this stage 745 students out of 1 629 had still not met their obligations by the date stipulated. The majority responded by making arrangements, while 67 ignored the concessions brokered by the student body.

Meanwhile, the Wits University council will meet today to discuss proposals by university management and students on fee payments following student protest action yesterday.

Students protested against the university's call for a R1 500 registration fee next year.

The university is owed R6,5m in outstanding fees for last year and is under budgetary constraints.

Student representative council president David Masondo said students were required to pay a R2 000 deposit for residence fees.

The inclusion of a R1 500 registration fee "would mean that poor students would be excluded from the system. They can't afford to pay these exorbitant fees", he said.

Students have also called for the scrapping of the 2%-a-month cumulative interest on outstanding fees.

University vice-chancellor Colin Bundy said the university was proposing that the fee payment be made more flexible and that there be discounts for early payment.

Other proposals included the reduction of the interest rate on outstanding fees.

# Learning out of reach

**T**HE role of the state in the provision of education in South Africa is increasingly facing new challenges as other players come into the arena, especially within the higher education sector.

Concern goes beyond the ability of the state to sustain the highly challenging higher education system. It also includes the role of the state and how it positions itself in the light of current developments.

Traditionally the state has three functions in relation to education: service provider, financier and regulator.

Recent developments in the political and economic arena, under the influence of globalisation, are leading to the encroachment of neo-liberal approaches to education planning.

Research in Europe, especially Britain, suggests a gradual erosion of the state as a service provider and financier.

The result of this neo-liberal discourse is policy advice on the gradual privatisation of education.

This reasoning has seen most Western governments opening up to private sponsors of education.

Sometimes public institutions are privatised or the engagement and control by the state is reduced.

Sometimes institutions privatise some functions. The catchword here becomes "outsourcing", a recent market strategy of killing public ownership.

The move towards the private provision of higher education is encouraged and sometimes supported by the World Bank.

In a 1988 report, it argued that the higher education system in Africa was bloated and inefficiently run. It recommended that privatisation be tested as an option to rescue the system and run it more efficiently.

This line of thinking has permeated into the thinking of some local education researchers and consultants who argue that local institutions should be managed in a business-like manner.

They make this argument under the guise of the need for a proper, cost-effective and efficient management. This argument forms the basis of two ideas.

First, that the state should reduce spending on education and institutions should rely less on subsidies and find ways of generating their own funds. Second, it encourages institutions to be profit-oriented.

In practice, this will kill the essence of institutions being spheres of intellectual growth. Fees will become exorbitant and research turned into business ventures, guided by commodity pricing.

As if its 1988 recommendation was not enough, the World Bank – through its finance

(54)  
Privatised universities are a threat to those who cannot afford higher learning and undermine the state's role in the provision of education, argues **Console Tleane**



**Higher education may soon be out of reach of many students.**

arm the International Finance Corporation – has been promoting private education provision in Africa by arranging technical assistance.

The expansion of private education is manifesting itself through the emergence of private universities and colleges. The most recent addition in South Africa is the St Augustine Catholic University.

In the latest issue of the *Quarterly Review of Education and Training*, Wits University's Education Policy Unit researcher Salim Vally submits that private higher education has been growing by a phenomenal 30 percent a year.

For Vally the rapid growth of private schools and colleges poses a growing challenge to public education. Education is becoming a commodity to be paid for only by those who can afford it.

Instead of becoming a common good that is available and affordable, education acquires a market value.

Following the logic of the market with its attendant mode of aggressive competition, some colleges have entered into partnerships with overseas universities, mostly British and Australian.

With the promise of easy academic entrance, as opposed to some of the stringent entrance requirements of local universities, the appearance of overseas universities poses a threat to local institutions.

Given the already dwindling student num-

bers in local universities, this trend will prove more serious than most people may realise.

The growth of private institutions and overseas universities raises two fundamental problems. First, without advocating blind protectionism, overseas universities will perpetuate and deepen Western cultural imperialism.

In fact, what is being experienced is not an equal cultural/academic exchange. Rather, it is a one-way traffic where the West is the bearer and transmitter of knowledge and standards, and the South remains the grateful recipient of knowledge.

The second problem is that the emergence of private institutions is a sure way of reproducing class disparities in society.

Whereas enthusiasts of liberalism, with their emphasis on free choice and competition, may want to advance the merits of a two-tier system of higher education (public and private), such a system betrays the historical quest to make education accessible and affordable.

Eventually it will mainly be the well-off who can afford education. However, it will not be easy for private institutions to encroach on public higher education in South Africa.

Because of the number of institutions and the advanced academic nature of some of their programmes, public higher education will withstand the threat posed by private and overseas institutions – at least for now.

What we will have is what University of London education sociologist Professor Geoff Whitty terms a "quasi-market" scenario.

The distinguishing characteristic of such a system is the element of user choice between providers, characterised by fierce competition for clients.

The role of the state becomes largely that of regulating entry requirements and the quality of services. The South African Qualifications Authority and the Human Sciences Research Council fulfil these functions.

But these checks and balances do not address the historical realities of this country, to which the systematic disadvantaging of the majority was central.

Above all, what needs to be guarded against is the creation of an elitist education. The main challenge is to defend public education; it will always remain the only way the majority can access education.

*(The author is an independent education researcher in Pretoria.)*

# College attracts few students

By Saint Molakeng (54)

THE new St Augustine College of South Africa, initially touted as the first Catholic university in Southern Africa, has only 20 students – and the staff are very happy about it.

Although the intake seems very low, it is understandable because the college, the first of its kind, only opened its doors on July 5.

“We are very happy about the 20 students who have registered, given that we had targeted the number at 15,” vice chancellor Professor Edith Raidt told *Sowetan* yesterday.

She said that it was impressive that so many people had registered in the middle of the year and at short notice.

The vice chancellor admitted that the college would need more students to sustain itself financially because it received no state subsidy.

“We have to raise funds ourselves. So we hope that there will be 40 students next year,” Raidt said.

There are plans to expand to offer undergraduate studies at its Observatory campus in Johannesburg.

Students study part-time and receive lectures four times a year for one week at a time.

*Sowetan* 27/7/99

# Asmal condemns students' binge

(54) PD 29/7/99

**Primarashni Pillay**

EDUCATION Minister Kader Asmal condemned the Venda University student representative council yesterday for squandering R450 000 on a campus ball this year and on 12 beers each for those attending.

Asmal said the university administration was "gutless" and "spineless" to allow this waste.

A report by the university disclosed that despite having a budget limit of R400 000, the student council spent R450 000 on the dance to welcome new students.

The report said the council initially requested that there be 24 beers for each student.

University spokesman Mbangiseni Masia said yesterday that the

university was reviewing the authority the council had over funds "so that it could make sure that funds are not spent on one item overnight". Masia said the university was committed to ensuring funds from whatever source were spent responsibly.

Meanwhile, Asmal's condemnation comes in line with his recognition that it was unlikely that significant additional resources would be available from government for higher education.

In his action plan unveiled this week he said funding levels to the sector should be retained while institutions became more efficient and accountable for the use of their resources.

He said the landscape of higher education needed to be reviewed

with the Council on Higher Education. "This complex and difficult exercise is likely to result in mergers between some institutions and decisions to change the missions of others," he said.

Asmal's action plan, aimed at tackling illiteracy and implementing teacher training programmes in support of the new curriculum, has sparked a mixed reaction. The National Union of Educators said that until government rewarded teachers for their contribution to "national progress", the problems of adult literacy, the implementation of the new curriculum and unstable school environments would not be resolved.

Analyst Salim Vally said Asmal was honest enough to have disclosed weaknesses in the system.



# UCT dean faces staff revolt

## Professor abandons restructuring after faculty board 'gave him hell'

ARLT 2/17/99 (54)

JEAN LE MAY

**W**ilnot James, dean of humanities at the University of Cape Town, has been forced to abandon his plans to restructure the faculty after resistance from academic staff.

"There was 'a lot of drama' at a meeting of the faculty board on Thursday and Dr James's proposals were attacked by several speakers.

"They gave him hell," one academic said.

The board ended the meeting by appointing a committee to advise Dr James and the faculty on operational planning and restructuring.

The committee will also examine the indirect charges for overhead costs of the faculty and "all other means of reducing the alleged operational deficit".

Board members also decided unanimously that the current restructuring process should be stopped. It rejected

Dr James's report, saying that an operational plan for 1999-2001, accepted by Dr James, had been brought forward arbitrarily by at least 12 months.

The board insisted that all restructuring be done according to agreed proposals for reducing academic staff.

Sunday Argus reported last week that 49 academic staff and eight support staff could lose their jobs if Dr James's original plan was implemented. Dr James could not be reached for comment this week, but the report has been challenged by deputy dean John de Gruchy, professor of religious studies.

Professor De Gruchy said: "This is not a matter I want to talk about to the newspapers. There is a danger of creating a conflict situation between the dean and the rest of the university."

However, academic staff voiced their concern that the dean was regarded as a manager rather than an academic and that the opinions of academic staff were being brushed aside.

Dr James, a former UCT professor of sociology, was executive director of the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa) for four years before being appointed dean of humanities this year.

In a statement, the academic staff association said that together with the new intra-faculty committee it had questioned the entire process undertaken by Dr James so far.

They criticised Dr James's report in which he referred to required savings by the faculty, "estimated by management at R7.7-million", and his proposal for "the loss of 42 senior lecturer posts and three administrative posts, which would achieve the desired savings, and release income to be used to meet the faculty's strategic objectives".

They said his proposals "lacked a full rationale for proposed academic cuts and the academic consequences", that no alternatives had been considered and that the endorsement from relevant UCT committees had not

been sought.

The association and the intra-faculty committee also disputed the data on which Dr James based his recommendations for staff cuts and other faculty savings.

Nic Marais, senior lecturer in civil engineering and chairman of the academic staff association, said the restructuring advisory committee would meet. Dr James to work out the next move. Every faculty was expected to meet its budget in terms of income over-expenditure, he said.

However, student numbers in some faculties had dropped over the past few years because students were becoming more career-oriented, he said.

"They take courses that will enable them to get jobs as asset managers rather than liberal arts courses. So the department of commerce is becoming flavour of the month, while the department of French, for example, is being whittled away for lack of student interest."

Dr Marais said the association realised that eventually, because of budgetary reasons, there would be retrenchments. "However, we insist on full consultation."

Saturday Argus has also learnt that the university management has introduced an innovative system that charges departments for the space they occupy at book value, which is then offset against the income earned through student fees.

"Some departments naturally occupy a lot more space than others," said one source. "For example, laboratories take up a lot of space. The upper campus is under enormous pressure as far as space is concerned - the area is cluttered with buildings."

Dereck Sparks, professor of civil engineering, said: "Once lab space is lost, it is lost forever. The department has lost a lot of our laboratories and anyone who wants to study hydraulics at post-graduate level will have to go to Stellenbosch University."

# SA universities may have to merge <sup>(74)</sup>

**MINISTER OF Education Kader Asmal** is to review the institutional form of universities, with the aim of equality and efficiency, Education Writer

**PRISCILLA SINGH reports.** *CT 2/18/99*

**M**AJOR changes, including mergers between certain universities and changing roles for others, are on the cards for South Africa's troubled tertiary education sector. In addition, universities have to meet the major challenges of gender equality and fighting illiteracy, Education Minister Kader Asmal has told the bi-annual general meeting of the South African Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association (Sauvca).

Asmal said the institutional landscape of higher education would be reviewed urgently. It was likely this complex and difficult exercise would lead to mergers between some institutions.

Education spokesperson Bheki Khumalo said yesterday a number of options were being considered. He could not name universities that might be affected.

A thorough investigation of all universities was being carried out. Once this was completed, Asmal said, he would take the necessary action with "deliberate speed".

Sauvca chief executive officer Piyushi Kotecha said Asmal's comments reflected a "deep sense of engagement" with the universities.

"This means that there will be extensive consultation and a lot of joint agreements. But it's also clear that the minister is going to place pressure on our institutions to perform," Kotecha said.

Asmal promised the vice-chancellors he would support universities, but that these would have to "earn their stripes". He denounced the World Bank's view that too much was being spent on higher education in the Third World.

"At the moment we spend 14% of our education budget on this sector. We'll sustain this level of spending, but in return the institutions will have to give value for money.

"We need to remember that money is not the only answer. Universities need to become more efficient and more committed to community values and needs. The Oxforfs and the Cambridges have their place. But (our) universities are not ivory towers. The need is that they should become vibrant centres for community life and involvement."

Asmal also warned against campus violence. "I will support you with the full force of my position if you take action against the perpetrators of violence. Universities should be at the forefront of the process of seeking peace and we want to remove violence from all campuses."

Asmal was openly critical of the universities, saying they lacked what he called "triumphalism".

"There can be no doubt that in 1994 South Africa pulled itself away from the edge. But where is our sense of triumph

Turn to Page 3

**Universities**

**should be**

**accessible'**

*(74) CT 2/18/99*

From Page 1

in what we have achieved?

"It's so important that we grasp and run with this triumph, but my sense is that the universities are failing in this.

"The lack of progress in gender equality? Quite frankly, I'm appalled. It's essential that there be visible change at senior administration and professional level. Universities must really get their acts together. Or do you want me to set the gender equality targets? We should definitely not exploit the tolerance of our people in such an important matter.

"What are the universities doing? You should be making yourselves accessible to those who need you most."

On private-sector colleges and foreign universities, Asmal said he would not be party to the "deliberate damage" of the country's higher education system.

"But I'll look to the ingenuity of the universities to deal with what amounts to a real threat. There must be some form of regulation. We (must guard against) the 'fly-by-nights'."

Sauvca chairperson and vice-chancellor at the University of Cape Town, Mamphele Ramphele, said Asmal had high expectations of universities and had set definite challenges. "At least we're talking to someone who is going to support us," Ramphele said.

# Axe looms for 'dead wood', UCT told

## Ramphele warns academics of difficult and painful time as university is restructured

CARD CAMPBELL  
SPECIAL WRITER

ly positioned branches" would be cut, she said, referring to employees working in disciplines which the university could no longer afford to maintain.

Exactly which disciplines will be chopped has not been finalised.

Dr Ramphele made her comments yesterday after media reports of staff dissent in the university's said.

humanities faculty because of looming job losses due to restructuring.

There was an uproar at a recent meeting of the faculty board when the new dean, Wilnot James, presented proposals to tighten his operation.

"Nobody has ever been happy with a restructuring process," she said.

Dr Ramphele said the university would not try to duplicate work already being done by other universities and technicians in the province. All the institutions in the region were discussing how to work together.

UCT had already reduced its facilities from 10 to six and, with budget presentations to the university

Dr Ramphele said the university council looming in October, deans were desperately trying to find ways to make faculties financially viable.

New Education Minister Kader Asmal has warned that higher institutions will have to be "lean and mean" to benefit from state subsidies.

Before UCT began the restructuring process, interested parties

agreed on an academic planning framework so that standards would not be eroded by budget cuts.

On Friday the deans will make presentations to executive management on ideas about ways to tighten belts. Dr Ramphele said there were areas which would have to be subsidised by other departments in order to continue.

### CAMPUS READY FOR 21ST CENTURY

# UCT leaner and meaner

UCT HAS cut its faculties from 10 to six, streamlined its departments and is ensuring that these provide value for money. Education Writer PRISCILLA SINGH reports.

THE University of Cape Town is nearing the end of its efforts to streamline its faculties and is preparing its budget for the next three years.

It has decided to keep its status as a "whole" university instead of converting to a technical campus as it enters the 21st century as a world-class African university, says Vice-Chancellor Mamphele Ramphele.

Under its strategic planning framework for 1997-2000, UCT has trimmed its faculties from 10 to six. Two of them, science and humanities, now have deficits. The university has closed all but a section of its education faculty. This is used to develop maths, science and technology

teachers, lending it to cross-pollination with other departments.

One of the major decisions taken during strategic planning was to keep the School of Music, which cost R24 000 a student. It was seen as a valuable part of UCT and there was sufficient demand to justify keeping it, Ramphele said.

The science faculty was expensive to run. It would have to prove its efficiency and effectiveness if it was to be an integral part of UCT.

Outsourcing the non-administrative staff was also on the cards. Consultations were under way to ensure the changes took place as smoothly as possible.

"Restructuring is a difficult and painful time for those affected,"

Ramphele said. "We haven't decided yet who will go. We are thinking more along the lines of what must grow."

On Friday, deans are to present their proposed operational plans for restructuring. The proposals will be reviewed and a refined plan looked at two weeks later.

Ramphele is keen to give effect to Education Minister Kader Asmal's visions for higher education. Among the top priorities is tackling the staff gender imbalance. At least 90% of full professors at universities were white.

She also intends to talk to Asmal about the lag in academic salaries and restructuring scales, for example in the context of other public service posts.

Ramphele said that when she took over in 1996, she inherited a great university that was said to be

the best, but she had promised that the best could be improved.

"When former education minister Sibusiso Bengu sliced the budget for higher education in name of redress, universities became vulnerable... We had to develop a bridge from the old landscape into a new environment and we identified the niche and principles that govern us," Ramphele said.

She acknowledged her predecessor's work in revitalising the sciences and establishing UCT as the leading science university.

"But the rest of the university grew like mushrooms. The humanities department was offering a dog's breakfast of courses. We've streamlined it into a more coherent degree programme.

"It is important to have checks and balances and with this goes the responsibility of accounting for money spent."

## Top degree

### for city man

CAPE TOWN academic Grant Parker has done himself and his country proud by becoming the first South African to obtain a doctorate at the top-notch Princeton University in the US.

As a student registered in the Princeton classics department, Parker was bestowed this honour at the university's recent graduation ceremony.

He has a long string of academic achievements under his belt and a few years ago was appointed as a post-doctoral scholar in the Michigan Society of Fellows with the post of assistant professor in the department of classics.

He obtained a masters degree in Latin, with distinction, from the University of Cape Town in 1991 — the same year in which he was asked to join a German editorial team in compiling an authoritative Latin dictionary. Parker was 24 at the time and was the first South African chosen to be part of the team that compiled the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*.

Parker's father Dick flew to Princeton to watch the graduation ceremony.

"I couldn't have asked for a better reward from Grant than the great academic success he has achieved. He has made us so proud," he said.

In March 1995, Parker presented a non-classical paper entitled "The Coloured Problem: Ethnicity in the South African Election" at the first Princeton University student conference on African-American studies.

He also spoke on "The Negro Problem" at Princeton in April 1995 and again at a current affairs seminar at Trinity College in Dublin in November of that year.

He has presented numerous papers on the classics, and says Latin has a lot to offer in interdisciplinary studies. He believes the ideas expressed in the classics are the basis of our civilisation. — Education Writer

# Cash-strapped universities face closure

(54) m+G 30/7 - 5/8/99

## Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

**T**he country's historically black higher education institutions, already rocked by huge student debt, financial deficit and massive cash flow problems, are likely to be merged or face closure in the next five years.

New Minister of Education Kader Asmal this week indicated that under his leadership higher education institutions will not receive additional resources and his ministry will be looking at rationalising tertiary institutions.

Education department sources say universities are likely to merge into strong institutions which "can respond to the challenges of the 21st century".

Although Asmal says his intent is not to close down struggling institutions, education analysts say his vision will have a significant impact on the already cash-strapped universities.

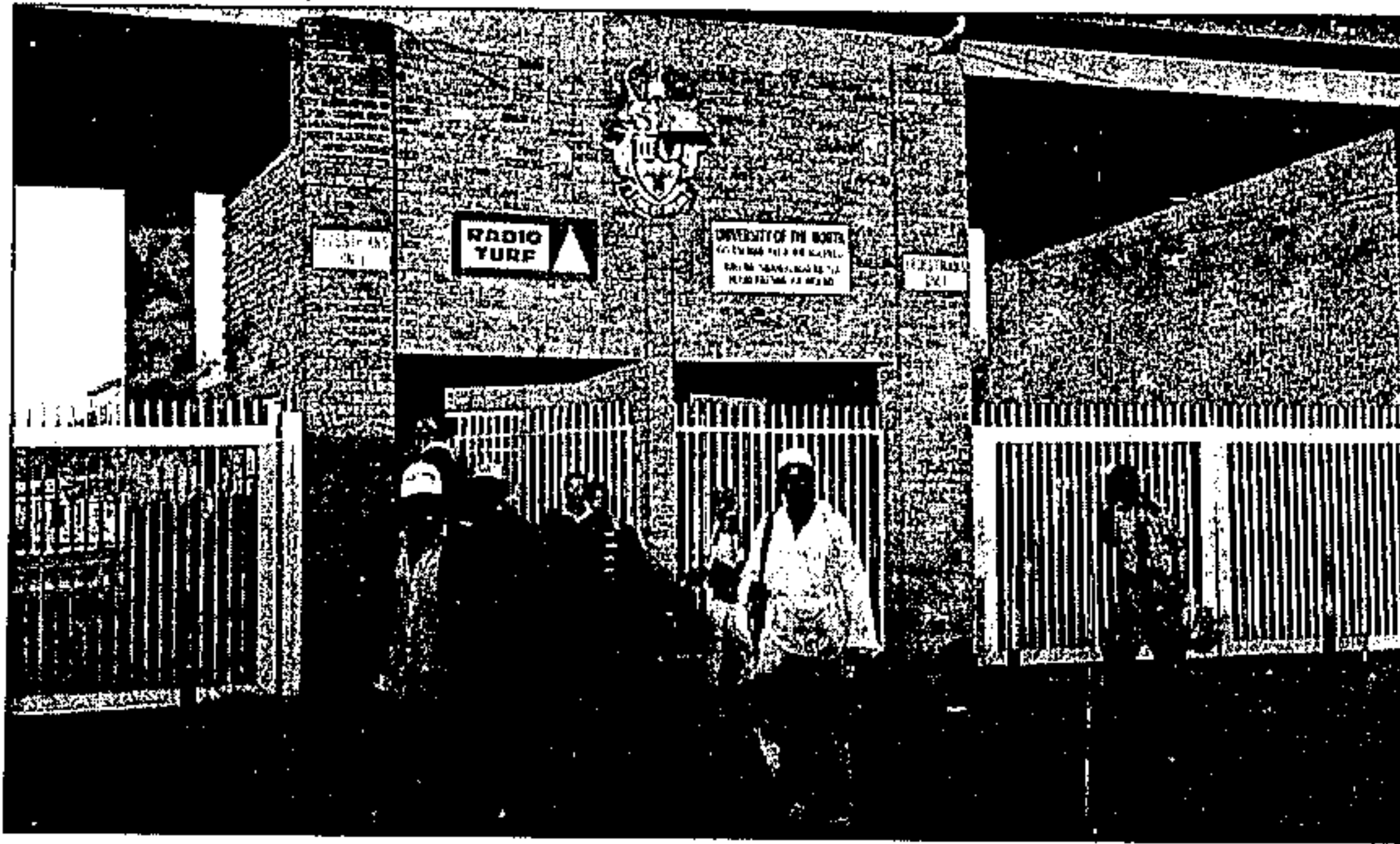
Institutions like the Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa) and the universities of Transkei, Fort Hare, North-West, Zululand and the North are in desperate need of government grants to stay afloat.

"Given the magnitude of our other priorities," Asmal says, "it is unlikely higher education will receive additional resources."

The six universities in crisis have incurred huge deficits and have accumulated student debt totalling more than R250-million in the past three years.

The six have recorded low student enrolments, which reduces the amount of funding they receive from the government.

In light of their already reduced government subsidies, the universities are increasingly relying



**Closing gates: Financially struggling universities, like the University of the North, could be merged or closed as the Department of Education looks at rationalising tertiary institutions. PHOTO: JACQUI PILE**

on student fees to finance their institutions.

An increasing number of black students are leaving historically black universities for formerly white universities. This has resulted in low registration at the black universities, which means they need even more financial support from the government.

Higher education currently receives 14% of the national education budget. This is likely to decrease next year, among other things because of the low student enrolment.

Asmal says the current funding figures are "well in line with international spending".

It is important, he says, "that funding levels to the [higher education] sector are sustainable, while institutions become more efficient

and accountable for the utilisation of their intellectual, infrastructural and financial resources".

Hardest hit is the University of the North, with a student debt of more than R90-million accumulated in the past six years.

### **The six universities in crisis have incurred huge deficits and have accumulated student debt totalling more than R250-million in the past three years**

Most of the students who owe the university have no money to pay, or have left for other institutions.

Other students who manage to

settle their fees largely use government loans. But when they complete their studies, they often struggle to find employment — most employers prefer students from technikons — and so are unable to repay their loans.

The University of the North, based in the Northern Province, is in desperate need of new facilities. More than 10 students' residences on the campus stand empty this year.

Despite its huge financial shortfall, allegations of rampant financial mismanagement have emerged at the campus. The allegations are being investigated by the Heath special investigating unit.

The University of Fort Hare, in the Eastern Cape, has a financial deficit of between R40-million and R60-million, and an outstanding

student debt totalling R27-million.

An external inquiry has charged that its administration fails to follow correct financial and management procedures.

The University of North-West has overdrafts of between R30-million and R40-million. It is owed more than R15-million by its students.

Asmal's predecessor, Professor Sibusiso Bengu, last year appointed advocate Louis Skweyiya to investigate the University of Transkei. It is owed about R54-million and has overdrafts projected at R34-million. Skweyiya's report led to the departure of the university's rector, Alfred Moleah.

The University of Zululand, which is owed more than R56-million, is experiencing its lowest enrolment in years.

On the declining enrolments, Asmal says: "The reason needs to be better understood. The long-term sustainability of individual institutions and the system as a whole requires that growth be promoted in a planned and responsible manner."

"As part of the ongoing planning process, I will be asking all universities and technikons to inform me of their intake targets for the year 2000 and the recruitment strategies for attaining these targets."

Despite their huge financial shortfalls, the six embattled universities have emerged as the highest-paying institutions in the country.

The University of the North, for example, is paying its vice-chancellor, Biki Minyuku, more than R900 000 a year.

The parliamentary portfolio committee on higher education recently recommended that forensic audits be conducted at all the universities in the country.

The audits, which began last month, are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

# 'A1' status for scientist

(74) CT5/8/99

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

PROFESSOR Pat Sandra of Stellenbosch University has been accorded first-class "A1" status as a chemistry researcher by the National Research Foundation after a recommendation by a panel of international scientists.

A university spokesperson said only about 40 researchers in the world have been awarded this accolade, and that "A1" scientists are regarded by their peers as world leaders because of the high quality and impact of their research.

Sandra obtained his BSc, MSc and PhD from the University of Ghent in Belgium, where he was employed from 1976 to 1990. He later became professor at the Eindhoven Technological University in

the Netherlands.

Sandra has been a professor of chemistry at Stellenbosch since 1998 and specialises in analytical chemistry, spectroscopy and capillary chromatography.

He was evaluated by the 10 international referees on the basis of four recent research projects. The 10 were from South Africa, the US, the Netherlands, France, Russia and Britain.

University officials described his output as "prolific" and said his list of publications included 265 articles in international journals.

Sandra has delivered papers at many national and international conferences. His services have included acting as judicial adviser to four European companies.

Since 1989 he has received awards in Russia, the US, Britain



**MASTER CHEMIST:** Pat Sandra of Stellenbosch University

and Venezuela.

For the past decade his research has been funded to the tune of about R50 million.

Sandra's aim is to establish a scientific centre of excellence at Stellenbosch University.

# Cool reaction to Asmal's merger plans

(h4) AUG 7/8 1999  
West Cape universities co-operating

JEAN LE MAY

**E**ducation Minister Kader Asmal wants universities to merge, but he will have an uphill struggle to persuade the three Western Cape universities to join forces.

He told university heads recently that a strategic plan for the next century was likely to result in mergers between some institutions and decisions to change the missions of others.

"It is well known that institutions find it very difficult to come to such decisions on their own. But I shall not hesitate to take the necessary action with all deliberate speed," he said.

Professor Asmal acquired a reputation, as Minister of Water Affairs, for doing what he sets out to do. Despite that, his remarks have been received coolly by the province's three universities - Cape Town, Western Cape and Stellenbosch.

Cecil Abrahams, rector of the University of the Western Cape and deputy chairman of the association, almost went into denial.

"I doubt whether Professor Asmal actually said that universities would merge," he said.

"Professor Asmal gave a talk about his plan for education... He might have mentioned that eventually there could be a merger, but it is our understanding that he was referring to a merger of functions rather than of institutions."

Mamphela Ramphele, UCT vice-chancellor, appeared to have the same impression.

In response to reports on problems in restructuring the humanities faculty, Dr Ramphele said the

university would try not to duplicate work being done by other universities and technicians in the province.

"All the institutions in the region are discussing how to work together," she said.

Wieland Gevers, senior deputy vice-chancellor of UCT, said in a statement later that it was "too soon to speculate on the possibility of universities merging in the Western Cape."

"Many academic departments are co-operating in areas of teaching and research. Institutions of higher education have also agreed to help in likely mergers of training colleges for teachers and nurses."

Andreas van Wyk, rector of Stellenbosch University, said that the debate was not new. The issue of merging universities was raised in the White Paper on Higher Education in 1997 and revived by Professor Asmal at last week's meeting of the association.

The reasons for debate were the decline in student enrolments at the black universities and the management crises at some of them, said Professor Van Wyk.

"We consider the closing or merger of universities and technicians to be very important. It must be gone into very carefully and not oversimplified," he said.

Other factors should also be considered, including the difference between universities and technicians, the way they are funded, the creation of more bursaries and loan funds and more co-operation between universities and technicians, said Professor Van Wyk.

Professor Abrahams said the background to the debate was that

in November 1998 the university heads association decided to take a hard look at South African universities to see "whether we are offering quality education, in line with national objectives and producing South Africans of academic excellence".

The association appointed outside consultants, he said, who were visiting all 21 South African universities to assess their strength, their weaknesses and, most important, "where there can be collaboration".

"No decisions will be made before the consultants report," he said.

The National Commission on Higher Education and the parliamentary portfolio committee on education have both asked for a thorough audit of universities, but up to now none had been made, said Professor Abrahams.

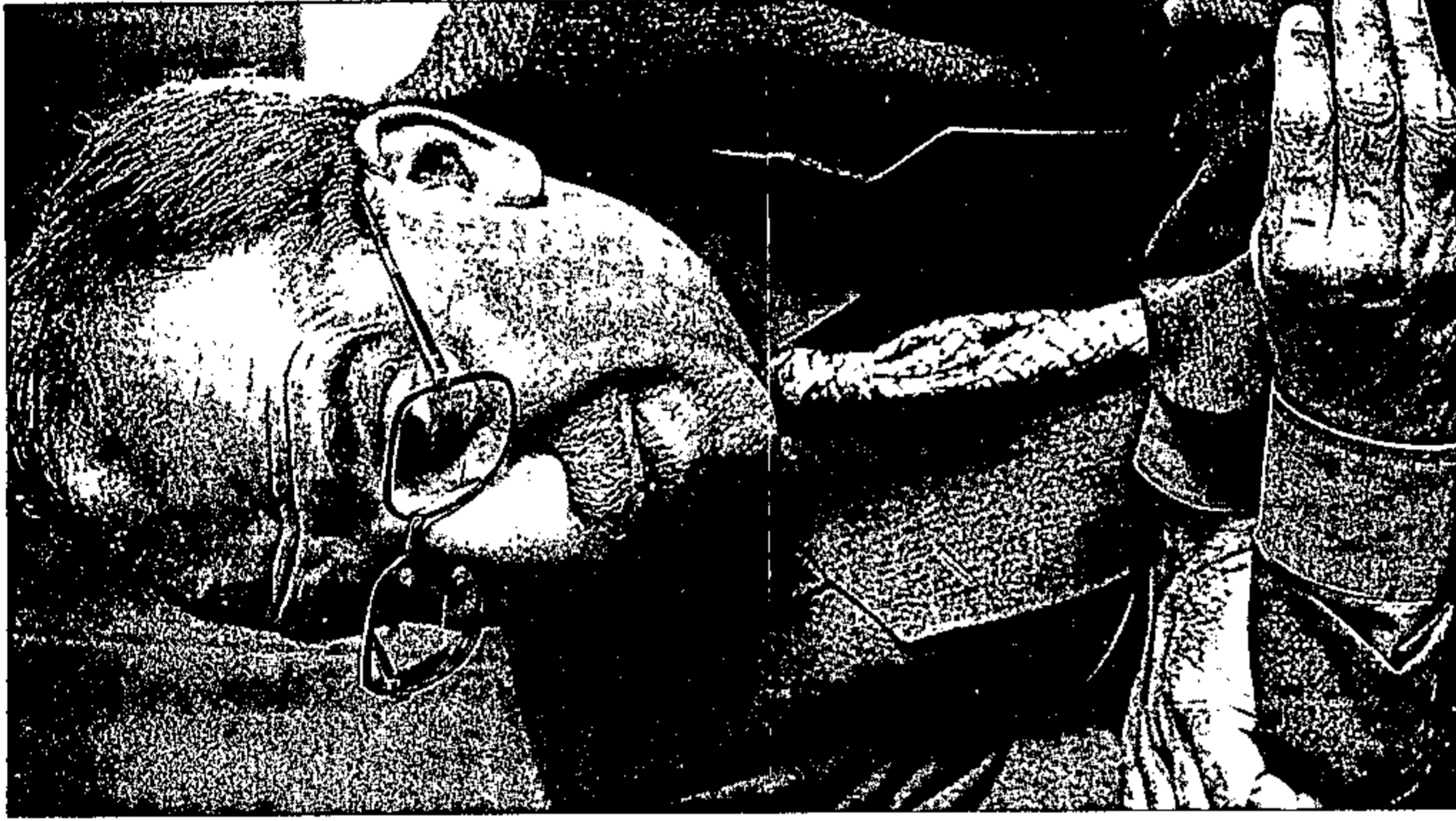
The apartheid-driven Extension of University Education Act of 1959 created universities "for the wrong reason", said Professor Abrahams.

The University of the Western Cape was established for coloureds in the province, whereas so-called "bush colleges" were ethnically-based in remote regions.

"But we must not forget that the older universities carried the baggage of colonialism with them. Although they admitted some blacks, not many went to them and there was a good deal of racism - blacks were not allowed to use all the facilities."

There was also the question whether there were too many universities in South Africa, said Professor Abrahams.

The consultants are looking at other countries, such as Australia and Canada, in this respect.



ACADEMIC QUESTION: Minister Kader Asmal has strategy for universities

"It may be that we are sacrificing quality for quantity," said Professor Abrahams.

"A degree from the University of Cape Town is acknowledged internationally as a good degree and the ideal would be for a degree from the University of the North to have the same acceptability."

"We need to build quality into the whole system and when we have the consultants' report we shall be able to do a thorough audit."

"A university is expensive and it may be that once we have done our homework we may find that money spent on some universities could be better spent elsewhere."

Nic Marais, chairman of the UCT Academic Staff Association said that "there has been so much talk about universities merging that we don't react any more."

"There is very good co-operation between universities at departmental level - the department of engineering runs a joint postgraduate course with Stellenbosch University and there is constant interchange of resources in order to make the best use of them."

Dr Marais said co-operation between universities and technicians had established the Western Cape library scheme, in which books and resource material is interchangeable between all the higher education institutions.

"We talk to each other constantly - great care is taken not to duplicate courses," Dr Marais said. "And there is also constant communication not only with other institutions in the Western Cape and in South Africa, but in other African countries as well."

# Tertiary education bodies Look at merger benefits

BD 10/8/99

Some SA universities, technicians face a cash crunch, writes **Primarashni Pillay**

SOME of SA's universities and technicians are in a financial crisis as a result of declining student numbers, reduced government subsidies and outstanding fees.

Historically black institutions are the most severely affected and there have been fears that some may close down.

The auditor-general's office appointed three auditing companies a few months ago to audit six cash-strapped universities including the universities of Fort Hare, Zululand and the University of the North.

Education Minister Kader Asmal said a fortnight ago that, while government would try to sustain subsidy levels at tertiary education institutions, there was a possibility of rationalisation and mergers.

At a national higher education conference held in Port Elizabeth last week, options which could help resolve the crisis were discussed.

These included mergers or co-operation with other institutions, universities changing their focus and being entrepreneurial.

The conference was organised by PriceWaterhouseCoopers and focused on the challenges of institutional management.

This followed a tour by a group of SA academics and Chris Elfick, a director of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, to a number of higher education institutions in Europe and the US earlier this year.

Elfick said that "international experience has proved that higher education can be restructured, often with significant results".

He cited the example of the Dutch merger experience where 359 institutions, with an average of between 300 and 500 students an institution, merged to form about 60, many with multiple campuses, from 1983.

Dutch education authorities promised a social scheme to find jobs for people who fell out of the sector and funding schemes were changed to promote bigger institutions.

The rule was that institutions should have at least 600 students each.

However, another lesson learned was that institutions should define niches in the market, based on a well-defined vision.

Furthermore, available human resources should be used to the maximum extent possible and change should be a bottom-up approach involving all academic and administration staff.

"The merger process which took place in the Netherlands as well as the rationalisation of many UK colleges ... has shown the success of these activities," Elfick said.

He went on to say that there was "plenty" of scope for this in SA.

There were also opportunities for institutional co-operation, Elfick said, explaining that a "simple sharing" of resources and co-operation on the supply of services such as libraries was an obvious first step.

"The swapping of responsibility for certain programmes, which allow institutions in close proximity to even teach a programme on a neighbouring institution's campus, could further contribute to the system's effectiveness," he said.

Some delegates attending the conference believed that collaboration between universities would be the best option, as mergers would entail job losses.

Others argued that mergers between previously advantaged and disadvantaged universities would provide an immediate solution to employment equity problems.

Mergers would also help disadvantaged

universities to rid themselves of the label "disadvantaged".

Elfick said that at many world class institutions, the staff model was made up of full-time staff together with long and short-term contract staff. This differed from SA where staff were largely employed full time.

A mixture of the models would add to the flexibility of an institution in terms of matching resources with requirements, Elfick said.

However, delegates at the conference argued that employing academics on a contract basis could result in low morale and would affect the quality of teaching.

Elfick also called for a spirit of entrepreneurship at institutions that could generate money from contract research, joint venture partnerships and other commercial activities.

Meanwhile, Mike Shattock, registrar of Warwick University in Britain, disclosed how declining government subsidies to universities in Britain meant that universities had to generate their own funds in order to survive.

Warwick University generates funds by offering short courses to industry and the public sector. Some of the masters programmes on offer were also self-funded.

He told the delegates how the university had its own book shop on campus, a supermarket and turned the campus into a conference centre during holidays. Money generated by departments that offered short courses was used for academic purposes.

"This income is rarely taken as additional remuneration by department staff. Rather, these funds are utilised in the department to employ additional staff and undertake staff development through conferences and travel," Shattock said.

# Universities 'gain from students they do not have'

Primarashni Pillay

SOME universities are raking in government subsidies for a student base they do not have, according to tertiary education insiders.

The universities are said to be exploiting a loophole in legislation that allows them to lend their names to qualifications offered by private institutions.

The universities, some of which are historically Afrikaans, are believed to be using student numbers from private institutions to boost their subsidies from government, although they have no real contact with the students.

Governmental higher education institutions are subsidised on the basis of student

numbers and pass rates. Private institutions are not subsidised by government.

Since private institutions lack the legal authority to offer degrees or diplomas unless they are registered with the education department, they offer qualifications through universities or technikons.

"Some universities do not set the exams for the courses offered at the private institutions (in their name).

"Nor do they monitor quality, but they cream off the government subsidy," says Ronald Nicolson, dean of the faculty of human sciences at Natal University.

He said the practice had been taking

place for about four years and "it is a scandal and a rip-off of the taxpayer".

"If a private institution has about 4 000 students, a university could receive an R18 000 subsidy for each student."

The practice entailed private institutions benefiting from student fees and the prestige which a university's name carried.

"The unsuspecting student may not know that the quality of the programme could be poor," he said.

Nicolson stressed that some universities were legitimately offering programmes through private institutions, where they set the course work and the exams and

monitored standards.

"There is nothing wrong if universities add value to work with private institutions," he said.

Adam Habib, an academic at the University of Durban-Westville, said that while there had been recent reports about a dramatic increase in the numbers of black students at some historically Afrikaans universities, some of these students were registered at private colleges to which universities lent their names and offered quality certification.

Habib said that these universities collected government subsidies for the students

and this amounted to "a scam in which historically Afrikaans universities are charging the national treasury for servicing a student base that they do not have".

Sonja Verwey, head of the Rand Afrikaans University's communications department, said that while her department accredited a diploma in media studies offered by Boston Media House, it wrote the course work and moderated the exams.

"We don't receive a government subsidy for these students," she said.

An education department official said there was no evidence to verify the allegations and that private institutions and public universities were legally required to declare partnerships and the nature of their student registration.

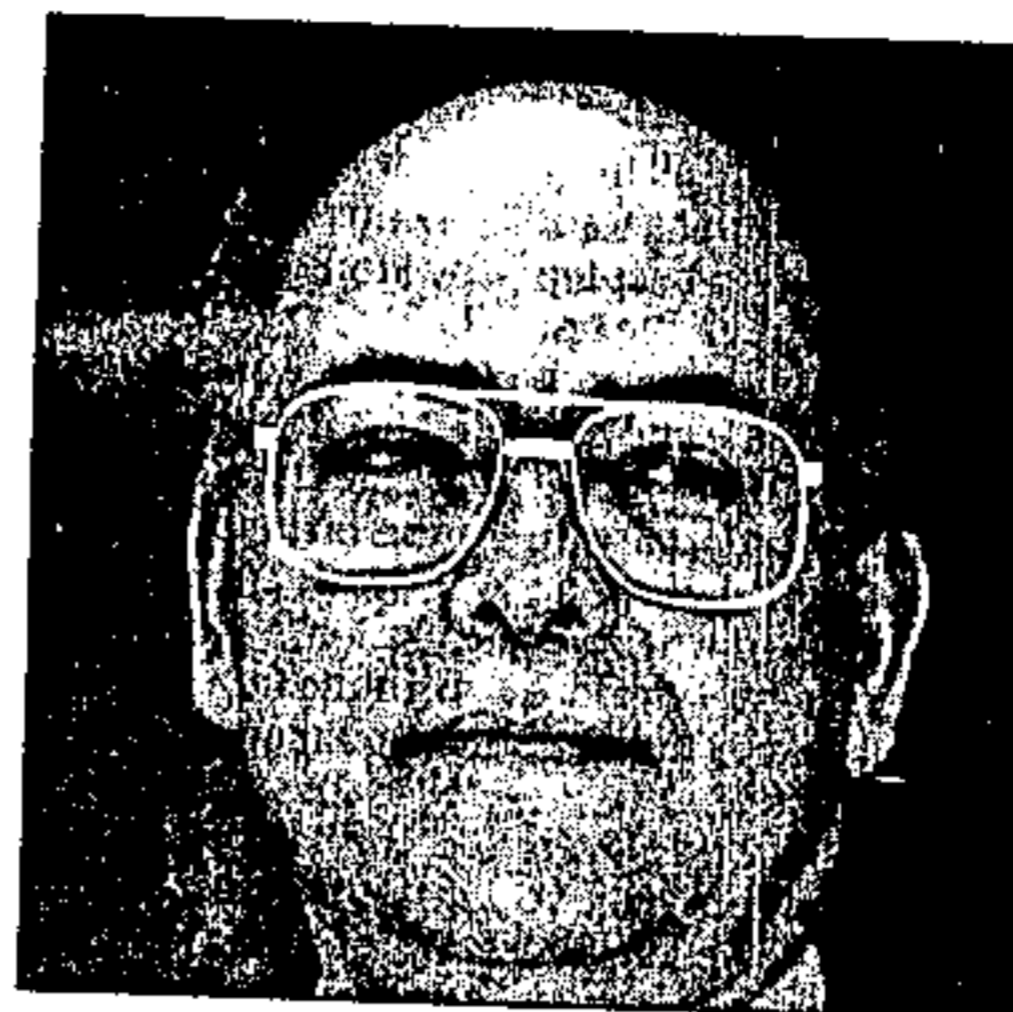
574  
2011/18/199



# Ways to improve higher education

CECIL ABRAHAMS

A South African Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association investigation to look at a higher education system to help overcome our colonial and apartheid past.



**MERGING:** University of the Western Cape rector Cecil Abrahams suggests that SA should have a higher education sector which can help our country be an active part of a globalised world.

IN his recently announced nine-point plan to deal with all levels of education in South Africa, Education Minister Kader Asmal notes that the "shape and size of the higher education system cannot be left to chance if we are to realise the vision of a rational, seamless higher education system, responsive to the needs of students of all ages and the intellectual challenges of the 21st century". Hence, the Minister concludes that "the institutional landscape of higher education will be reviewed as a matter of urgency" and he forecasts, after a "thorough investigation and consultation" that this "complex and difficult exercise is likely to result in merges between some institutions".

While the Education Minister's "call to action" has been welcomed by most right-thinking members of the higher education fraternity, it has, however, encouraged a one-sided debate by those commentators and news media who have for some time frantically called for the universities that were created for black South Africans. Under the guise of a poorly-funded sector and alleged mismanagement in a part of it, the critics of historically black universities have been unsparing in attacking the standards and qualifications of these institutions.

While we agree with Minister Asmal that the "landscape" of our twenty-one universities "was largely dictated by the geo-political imagination of apartheid planners", it is important to note, however, that many of our so-called open universities were created during South Africa's colonial period and that they were, indeed, separate and closed to black South Africans. Those few blacks who were privileged enough to attend the colonial universities in the first half of this century can relate untold horror stories of their lack of welcome in these places of learning.

Indeed, when we compare the socio-educational experience of black students at the "open" and "apartheid-created" institutions, we shall find that most black students flourished at the latter ones while their human development lagged sadly behind

at those of the former. It is, therefore, not surprising that it is from the apartheid-created black institutions that many of our present leaders have come.

We agree with the Education Minister that we must unbundle the history of our higher education sector for we might find here the clues to whether thirty-six public institutions are too much or too few. After all, there are countries with smaller populations than ours where there are proportionately more higher education institutions than what we have. And it is not a surprise that these countries have also become major players on the world economics stage.

The National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE) had called upon the then Minister of Education to conduct a national audit of all our higher education institutions to determine the size and shape of the sector.

This call was repeated at the Parliamentary hearings of the Portfolio Committee on Education. Unfortunately, such an audit did not occur but a new Higher Education Act was promulgated in 1997. Education Minister Asmal's "call to action" must now ensure that such an audit does, indeed, take place.

In preparation for a national audit, the South African Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association (SAUVCA), which represents all twenty-one publicly-supported universities, has begun a consultative process to determine the size and shape of the university sector. SAUVCA's journey of discovery is guided by its strategic plan to ensure that our university sector is one of quality and one that deals with the needs, objectives and innovations of the society at large.

The SAUVCA investigation will clearly look at the how and why of the present landscape. It will consider the size and shape of the system in relation to the size and shape of a country that desires to be globally competitive.

The SAUVCA investigation will examine the need to provide more and better access to members of previously excluded groups, including women.

The study will ask how are we to structure our system so that those who live in rural areas, or who are non-traditional learners, are not disadvantaged. How can we contribute to the eradication of illiteracy in a short time and how can we assist our teachers in providing outcomes-based education? It will ask how can our many outreach programmes contribute to the goal of better structured communities? And how can we build on the national and international successes for which we are already renowned?

In each region of South Africa, higher education institutions have been examining ways through which institutions can cooperate and share scarce resources. In some regions there are, indeed, plans to merge institutions. In others, there is talk of federal systems where all higher education institutions report to one governing body, and where administrative and teaching staff and facilities are owned as one, rather than as a plethora of bodies.

What the SAUVCA investigation seeks to do and what the Education Minister should encourage is a thorough examination of the higher education sector that will overcome our colonial and apartheid past. An examination that is not premised on facile and noisy solutions, that ensures the involvement of the majority of South Africans and that creates a vibrant and quality higher education sector that will help our country to be an active and important part of a globalised world.

● Cecil Abrahams is rector and vice-chancellor of the University of the Western Cape.

## Students wounded in campus protest

South African 13/8/99 (54)

By Mfanafuthi Mhlongo

FOUR students and a staff member were injured when members of the Combat Force opened fire on them at Umlazi's Technikon Mangosuthu yesterday.

The students held a protest march in an attempt to exert pressure on both technikon management and the striking staff members to speed up negotiations aimed at resolving the ongoing strike by staff members. Staff members - who are members of the National Union for Technikon Employees in South Africa (Nutesa) - embarked on strike action three weeks ago.

Yesterday members of the Combat Forces fired a hail of live bullets in the direction of protesting students and staff members.

The four wounded students were identified as Njabulo Chiliza, Nombeko Kunene, Muzi Nxumalo and Khangezile Kheswa.

The wounded staff member was not identified.

Nutesa president Mr Zakhele Nyuswa said his union would call on all the other 14 technikons nationwide to support staff members.

"You cannot expect a strike to take so much time without any attempt being made to resolve it," said Nyuswa.

Combat Force spokesman Mr Norman Reeves expressed pleasure with the shooting and wounding of students, saying he was getting better payment if he shot at people.

"When we do not kill, the money we get is far less than the one we get after shooting at someone," said Reeves.

He said just by the death of one student, his company stood a chance of being paid at least R30 000 for a "job well done".

Spokesman for the technikon, Ms Sue Smith, said although further investigations about the shooting was still to be conducted, Reeves' statement was "shocking".

Deputy president of the South African Students Congress, Mr Khwezi Ngwane, said the technikon management was "gambling with the students' future".

He said it was strange that management was of the view that the problem at the campus could be solved through the "barrel of a gun".

Students have been given until Monday to vacate the campus after management resolved to close it.

## UCT revises healthcare curriculum

ZINE GEORGE (74) CT 13/8/99

THE University of Cape Town's health sciences faculty held a rally this week to mark the start of the primary healthcare department's mission to transform its curriculum to one aimed at experimental teaching, research and hospital teaching.

Dean of the health sciences faculty, Nicky Padayachee, said that according to UCT's mission statement, it is striving to become an African university that is both excellent and relevant.

"But we cannot reach this goal if we do not discuss issues with the communities we work for," he said.

In changing their approach to outreach services, the university's primary healthcare head, Dumo Baqwa, said the outreach service should be informed by

knowledge from the community.

"We need to bridge the gap between formal and informal care. About 50% to 60% of health experience is lost because of the gap," he said.

This loss will be saved by doing research not only in secondary health centres, such as Groote Schuur Hospital, but by making use of "the sociologists, psychologists and homeopaths as well as traditional healers".

How health workers related to the community was another area that needed attention.

The mayor of Cape Town, Nomaindia Mfeketo, said: "It is high time that health workers, when they visit our communities, relate to people not as patients, but as people. They too can share ideas on how to deal with health related issues."

Baqwa said: "Our people have always diagnosed and treated each other."

Another important aspect in building trust was teaching the communities the importance of having health workers among them.

"In that way doctors, nurses and other health workers can be guaranteed security in our communities," said Mfeketo.

The Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane, spoke of the importance of the media as facilitators.

"It is high time the community makes use of the media, especially radio, to debate issues affecting the communities," he said.

The theme of the next rally, to be held at midday today at the New Groote Schuur called "Klein Schuur", will be "Beyond the Hospital bed".

## 'Campus rip-offs amount to fraud'

Primarashni Pillay (74) BD 13/8/99

THE education department needed a policy that would instruct universities to claim government subsidies only if students were registered with them and were on their campuses, University of Durban-Westville academic Adam Habib said yesterday.

This follows allegations by tertiary education insiders that some universities are raking in government subsidies for a student base they do not have.

The universities are said to be exploiting a loophole in legislation that allows them to lend their names to qualifications offered by private institutions.

The universities, which are believed to be mostly historically Afrikaans, are said to be using student numbers from private institutions to boost their subsidies from government, although they have no real contact with students, nor do they monitor standards and set exams.

Academics have condemned the practice, which they say is a "rip-off and amounts to defrauding the national treasury".

Habib said there should be penalties for universities that are guilty of the practice.

Some academics believe the new subsidy formula, which is to be introduced in 2001 and is based on programme funding and student places, as opposed to student numbers, would resolve the problem.

However, Habib said that since the new formula comes into effect in 2001, "it won't address the problems occurring now and next year. People will still get away with it".

Ahmed Essop, chief director of higher education in the education department, said some universities had legitimate agreements with private institutions.

The department was requesting universities provide information on such agreements and acknowledged that there could be some problems. "We will look at the grey areas," Essop said.

# Technikonians prepare for the future

(54) CT 16/9/99

**BRIAN FIGAJI**

*Looks at the past, present and future of technikonians as institutions of higher education. This week is National Technikon Week.*

ALMERE 20 years ago South African society was presented with a new institutional form identified as technikonians. These institutions grew out of the old Colleges for Advanced Technical Education (CATEs) whose specific mission was to provide education that would fill the gap between artisans trained within the further education sector and "professionals" trained at universities.

Very soon this limiting mandate was shed and technikonians developed as institutions in their own right — equal to, but different to universities within the higher education sector.

Today, given the relatively short history, technikonians have a proud reputation for providing high level career-oriented human resources for the South African economy. There are 15 technikonians throughout South Africa. Fourteen of these are residential technikonians and one offers programmes through distance learning.

Approximately 200 000 students at technikonians are engaged in study programmes as diverse as Journalism, Radiography, Engineering, Graphic Design and the Performing Arts. The important consideration is that every study programme is directly related to a career or job title.

Our educational philosophy is built on the principle of providing knowledge and applying that knowledge in real-life situations. To achieve this objective, technikonians make extensive use of the input provided by industry to shape the content of programmes, while also introducing a compulsory

period of work in the industry for students as part of their study.

This co-operative education model has benefits for the student, the institution and the employer.

Because technikon programmes have a national core curriculum, student mobility between institutions happens almost unhindered. This is particularly helpful to companies that have a national structure with branches all over the country.

Perhaps our least known, but best, attribute is that the quality of technikon programmes is assessed on a regular basis through an on-site review process that includes peers and representatives from industry. This quality assurance is the most comprehensive within the higher education sector and is performed by the Council for Technikon Education — a statutory body responsible for the quality assurance of technikonians.

Technikon qualifications range from Certificates and National Diplomas to Bachelors in Technology (BTech), MTech and DTech degrees.

In preparation for the 21st century, the Committee of Technikon Principals has encouraged members to prepare for the following challenges:

- The need for strategies for staff development that will entrench lifelong learning so that staff are better equipped to deal with the rapid technological advances and the shortened "shelf-life" of knowledge. This includes staff embarking on significant research activities or allowing staff to spend dedicated periods of time working in industry.

- The need to develop modalities that will provide for a wider range of learners than the current full-time residential student. These modalities will have to consider learning that takes place at a variety of sites in a variety of

ways in order to cater for the diversity of learner needs.

- The need to carefully plan for an increased intake of post-graduate students as a result of the economic recession. The students need to be distinctive in a crowded employment market increasingly populated by qualified undergraduates.

- The future need to collect, process, synthesise, manage and control information in a way that allows the institution to stay abreast of the changes in information, knowledge and knowledge production.

- The technikon mandate to prepare high level technologically-oriented students, who are able to drive innovation that will stimulate economic growth. Economists estimate that 50 to 70% of all economic growth can be attributed directly or indirectly to innovation.

- The need to ensure that our education is appropriate for the global economy.

Foreign investment in South Africa and by South Africans in other countries leads to foreign competition and the only measure of "standard" is the internationally accepted measure.

South African technology and skills must be internationally competitive in order to be acceptable. With the recent opening of the South African economy and the technikonians just starting to establish international linkages, there is an opportunity to carefully select strategic partnerships who are able to transfer much needed skills to our staff so that our capacity to compete internationally may be enhanced.

Technikonians are not trapped in historic linkages that have outlived their usefulness.

- The need to bring technikon learning even closer to the world of work. To do this, technikonians need to

expand their existing relationships with employers to secure more work-based learning, more work placements and more project work. They need to strive for a greater involvement of commerce and industry in integrating relevant experiences into technikon courses.

- The absolute necessity to increase the computer literacy of our students. In our current technological environment, it is essential for every student to be computer literate in order to function effectively in the workplace. Although the level of computer literacy at technikonians is generally fairly high, this needs to be extended to every student.

Permission to offer advanced degrees has made it necessary for technikonians to engage in research and to build research capacity among members of staff. This is a significant initiative that has developed many links between South African institutions and those in other countries.

The rapid development of technikonians over the short period of 20 years, their sound institutional management of resources and their stable campus life have set a firm foundation for growth into the new millennium.

South African higher education needs to serve our diverse population as well as meet the diverse needs of commerce and industry. This can only be achieved by a higher education system that is diverse and responsive to these needs.

As we celebrate National Technikon Week, we wish to showcase what we are doing and what we can do to help to build this country and the continent into the formidable force that we should become within the world economy.

- Professor Brian Figaji is the Executive Member of the Committee of Technikon Principals.



# SA needs policy on tertiary education's future

By Claire Keeton

PARLIAMENT needs to shape policy on how tertiary education can contribute to development, Speaker Dr Frene Ginwala said yesterday in her capacity as chancellor of the Port Elizabeth Technikon.

Ginwala facilitated a meeting in Parliament between Members of Parliament and the Committee of the Technikon Principals to increase MPs' understanding of the role of tech-

nikons in education and the economy. Representatives from the portfolio committees on education, science and technology, finance and trade and industry attended and Ginwala hopes that they will take this process further.

Professor Bennie Khoapa, chairman of the principals committee, said the country's 15 technikons played a key role in training students in productive and entrepreneurial skills.

He said: "With a view to ushering in the Higher Education Act, we need

to encourage debate and understanding ... the greatest challenge is not to identify the differences but the similarities (between universities and technikons)."

Khoapa said student surveys have shown that they are "voting with their feet" since increasing numbers are choosing technikons over universities. One of the committee's priorities now was to facilitate "uninterrupted movement and mobility" between the two sectors.

He said South Africa needed a rationalised higher education system that was outcomes-based rather than sector-based, and the funding system had to be reformulated in a more balanced way.

Ginwala said South Africa could not afford the elitism of a "hierarchy of universities and technikons in which technikons are somehow second class". Technikons played an important role, with their students acquiring knowledge for development and jobs.

It intends to provide support for five times more children by the year 2000 than the current 100 000 applications for the Child Support Grant introduced last April.

The 1999-2000 allocation for the Poverty Relief Fund is R40 million, after a R203 million allocation the previous year. The fund will go to local and national projects as well as capacity building for a large number of non-governmental and community-based organisations.

Other initiatives high on the department's agenda are the transformation of the child and youth care system, and survivor support and development (previously known as victim empowerment).

By Saint Molakeng

THE Congress of South African Students (Cosas), now 20 years old, has shed its militancy to become an issues-oriented pressure and lobbying group.

"Ten years ago we were very militant. We disrupted schooling and burnt buildings," Cosas president Lebogang Maile (19) told *Sowetan*. "We were responding to Oliver Tambo's call to make the country ungovernable."

He adds: "Although we are still militant, it is a militancy informed by an eagerness to translate the national democratic change into equity for everyone."

Mass mobilisation is now out; in has come lobbying, according to the articulate Maile.

"We lobby sympathetic structures such as teacher and worker trade unions and the Government itself. That was the approach we adopted when the recent Schools Act was in its formative stages," he says.

# Cosas changes and heads into a new direction

(54)  
*Sowetan* 19/8/99

Maile, who is serving his second two-year term as Cosas president, concedes that the organisation's activism and membership has declined in the post-apartheid era.

"This generation is no longer interested in politics as it believes that everything is fine and should be left to the politicians," he says.

"But the youth should be mobilised and engaged. Issues should not only be left to older people because what happens in the future will have an impact on our own adult lives."

Cosas, formed in 1979, is politically aligned to the African National Congress and shares offices with the political party at its headquarters in

downtown Johannesburg. To ensure the ANC won power for a second term, Cosas campaigned for the party before the June 2 elections. "We cannot be politically neutral because no one is," says Maile.

While the organisation welcomes the Schools Act, it believes it should be amended in certain areas, especially in relation to examinations and single-sex schools.

"The traditional exam system must end. It is questionable to test our intelligence over three hours on what we have been taught for eight months," says Maile.

He says pupils should instead be evaluated throughout the year.

"Yardsticks should include class-

work and disciplined participation in school activities," he adds.

At the moment, pupils tend to cram for exams.

Cosas also takes exception to separate schools for boys and girls because it believes this entrenches sexism in society.

Maile argues it breeds prejudices which lead to sexism.

Cosas also believes racial coexistence should be nurtured. "This will be advanced if blacks attend the same schools as whites," says Maile, a matric pupil at the racially integrated Crawford College in Lonehill, Johannesburg.

Cosas has strong feelings about various other issues as well. For

example, Maile says school fees should not be strictly paid in monetary terms.

"There are parents who don't have money but can contribute by building classrooms."

Maile says the curriculum should be revised as well to equip pupils with the skills to meet the country's socio-economic challenges.

However, Cosas does not only make demands on teachers and Government; they also place obligations on pupils.

"Community service should not be the sole obligation of post-graduate students. Pupils should also do their bit," says Maile.

Cosas also suggests that pupils should be trained as junior police reservists in order to nip lawlessness in the bud.

And the organisation is not all talk and no action. For instance, the movement introduced Operation Mazibuye, an ongoing campaign to recover furniture stolen from schools.

# Academics argue about who should run campuses

BD 19/8/99 (54)

Changing role of councils brings new definition of tasks, says Primarashni Pillay

UNIVERSITY and technikon councils have become the main decision-making bodies of the institutions they serve, and council members should have some knowledge and expertise in the higher education sector.

Many universities and technikons have recently put in place new councils that are charged with the task of making major decisions, including academic and financial issues, and hiring and firing senior staff.

These responsibilities are new to councils which have in the past merely rubber-stamped management decisions. Councils are now required to make decisions, then step aside and leave the institution's management to implement them.

The Higher Education Act allows councils to choose 60% of their membership from outside the institution. It also allows the education minister to appoint up to five people to each council, based on recommendations by the institution.

Various categories are represented on the council, including academics, management and staff union members, students, members of local authorities and businesspeople.

Some analysts argue that some councils may lack the expertise to run institutions efficiently.

Sometimes people who lack expertise get onto councils with their own agendas, and this leads to in-fighting, which spills over into management.

In the process, attention is deflected from the business of administering the institution, causing instability and low staff morale.

Councils have been accused of perpetuating the near collapse of some institutions, not being supportive of principals, and of not firing principals when they should have.

They have also been accused of allowing institutions to run into debt and then blaming principals.

Prof Joe Tefo of the University of the North argues that Education Minister Kader Asmal should set out criteria on who should be on a council and that it should be expertise-driven.

Asmal should set out criteria for the number of people on a council who should, for example, have financial expertise and a legal background. "We've got to have the right people for the job," says Tefo.

Sometimes people "with political credentials, who don't have academic backing, get onto councils" and this creates difficulties in the running of the institution.

In an article published last year by the Institute for Higher Education Development in SA, Tefo argued that politicians "should not be allowed take part in councils or the governance of tertiary institutions."

"Often politicians... serve the interests of themselves or the parties they represent."

He says Asmal should also stipulate that union representatives should have some qualification so that they can "properly represent members" as well as "vote on financial or academic issues".

He also questioned the extent to which students should be involved in the control of institutions and whether the vote of a professor should have the same weight as that of a student representative. Students should "go back to learning and managers should manage".



Education Minister Kader Asmal ... should set out criteria on who should be on a council, and it should be expertise-driven

He believes Asmal should stipulate a set number of council members, as opposed to leaving institutions to decide for themselves. "If you allow large numbers on councils it creates opportunities for cliques to be formed and people vote in blocks on issues."

Prof Siphon Seepe of Vista University says institutions should be allowed to appoint their own council members.

"Should Asmal set guidelines on who should be appointed, it could become prescriptive and this could become a threat to the autonomy of institutions," he said.

Tefo asks: "To what extent should we allow universities, in the name of autonomy, to bleed to death and allow gangsters to sit

on councils?"

Seepe says ministerial appointments should be based on recommendations from the institution and those nominees should have an understanding of transformation and how universities work. Furthermore, these appointees should be credible in their communities.

He is adamant that councils are stakeholder-driven and that politics cannot be removed from the situation.

"In the past, councils did not have the tensions that they have now, as they subscribed to the policies of the government of the day. Tensions today are a reflection of what is happening in society," says Seepe.

Ahmed Essop, chief director of higher education, says there is concern about the skills of some people on councils who are unaware of their roles and responsibilities.

Although the department does not train council members, it is involved in facilitating training through the Centre for Higher Education Transformation (Chet), a nongovernmental organisation, Essop said.

Seepe argues that it is racist for people to call for the training of members of councils which now have black people on board.

"How does one train high-profile people like Barney Pitso (head of the SA Human Rights Commission and chairman of Venda University's council)?" he says.

"People who are calling for training have never been university principals and are underqualified," says Seepe.

Charmaine Johnson of Chet says: "Everybody needs training to understand how important their tasks are."

"The role of councils has changed and we have asked the education department to ensure ministerial appointments are not political ones, but are people with expertise who can bring their skills into the institution."

## Technikon heads meet to forge better ties

LYNNETTE JOHNS (54)  
EDUCATION REPORTER  
ARC 19/8/99

Technikon heads from across the country are meeting business leaders and the Government this week to discuss technical education and the contribution the institutions can make to the development of the country.

Technikon Week, from August 16 to 20, aims to forge a closer working relationship among the institutions.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Frene Ginwala, as chancellor of Port Elizabeth Technikon, said students with technikon degrees often found jobs on graduation, but some university students spent up to two years searching for one. She said technikons were seen as "second class" compared with universities.

"The country can't afford this kind of elitism. We need an educated population oriented towards building and developing the country."

She said a technikon degree was more career-orientated as part of the courses required in-service training, giving students practical experience in their chosen field.

Dr Ginwala was speaking after the Committee of Technikon principals met members of the parliamentary education, trade and finance committees on Monday.

The chairman of the principals' committee, Professor Bennie Khoapa, said the meeting was the beginning of a "conversation" between principals and the Government.

Improvements to policy on technikons would be informed by the debate on the increasingly important role technikons were playing.

The national education department was working on ways to ensure that funding for universities and technikons was equalised.

Professor Khoapa said there was an assumption that because universities were doing more important work, they should get more money.

The committee had spent two years trying to convince the department that this was not the case.

Technikon heads will spend the rest of the week speaking to business, industry and the Government to advise and inform policy makers on how technikon education contributes to economic growth.

# Technikons provide graduates who are ready to start careers

This week was National Technikons Week — intended to highlight the importance of technikon education in job-creation. HERMAN VAN EDE, deputy vice-chancellor of Technikon Witwatersrand, offers a perspective

**F**IGURES released this month by the Department of Labour indicate that over a third of adult South Africans are unemployed. But not all of them are uneducated.

More than 52 000 of SA's registered unemployed people have matric. And an ever-increasing portion of the jobless have university degrees.

SA's universities, in their three-year rolling plans presented to the Department of Education, have indicated they will continue graduating more humanities, commerce and arts students well into the millennium.

It will take considerable time to attract appropriately qualified students, procure adequate facilities and hire appropriate academic staff to teach more technology and applied sciences at universities. Only a quarter of students who enrol at university in the next three years will study science

and technology.

The technikons now confer degrees in technology (from Bachelors through to Doctorates). With their emphasis on applied research to solve real problems in industry, technikons are poised to play a vital role in the development and growth of the country.

The state subsidy to SA's 15 technikons in the 1999/2000 year is just under R1.65-billion. The state subsidy to the universities exceeds R4-billion.

Technikon students are trained to be immediately productive in the workplace. First, the curricula for all technikon programmes are drawn up in consultation with industry and meet the skills requirements of particular sectors of the public or private sector.

Second, advisory committees (comprising members of professional bodies, former students and employers) feed new industry trends and requirements directly into the

technikons. Academic programmes are adapted accordingly to ensure the technikons prepare students with the practical skills needed to make the country's economy globally competitive.

Most technikon programmes require students to undergo a period of experiential learning with an employer (for up to 12 months out of a three-year National Diploma). During this period students are assessed by their industrial supervisors and by their lecturers. Technikon diplomates and graduates are career-ready and technologically skilled.

Many of them are offered employment by the companies in which they complete their experiential learning.

Technikon students receive entrepreneurial skills training which equips them to start successful small enterprises after graduation and provide employment for others.

## STATE SUBSIDIES TO UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNIKONS (excluding ad hoc allocation)

UNIVERSITIES	TECHNIKONS
1996/1997	R11.1-bn
1997/1998	R13.3-bn
1998/1999	R13.6-bn
1999/2000	R15.5-bn
	R4.2-bn
	R1.6-bn

## ENROLLED TECHNIKON STUDENTS

TECHNIKON	1997	1998
Border	2 167	3 312
Cape	9 916	10 130
Eastern Cape	2 190	3 768
Free State	6 768	6 147
ML Sultan	9 363	9 800
Mangosothu	4 132	5 551
Natal	10 380	10 052
North West	3 080	3 910
Northern Gauteng	8 835	8 934
Peninsula	7 776	7 788
Port Elizabeth	8 538	8 646
Pretoria	16 977	21 442
South Africa*	80 385	70 145
Witwatersrand	11 683	11 683
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>193 700</b>	<b>194 827</b>

\*Technikon South Africa is a distance tuition institution

GRAPHIC: PETERA KRISCH

SOURCE: COMMITTEE OF TECHNICON PRINC

# Learning to embrace an 'era of co-operation'

## A merger is out, we're working together, say Western Cape's five schools of tertiary education

ARGUS 25/8/99

(14)

Suggestions by Education Minister Kader Asmal that some South African universities may be merged in a bid to cut education costs has sent ripples of anxiety through academic circles.

The five institutions were asked to comment on steps being taken to rationalise operations. This followed media speculation about which process Education Minister Kader Asmal would follow in pursuing his goal of a "rational, seamless higher education system".

Outlining his nine education priorities, Dr Asmal promised to review the institutional landscape of higher education in collaboration with the Council on Higher Education.

He said: "This complex and difficult exercise is likely to result in mergers between some institutions and decisions to change the mission of others. It is well known that institutions find it difficult to come to such decisions on their own."

"Provided the investigations have been thorough and consultation has been undertaken fully and in good faith, I will not hesitate to take the necessary action with all deliberate speed."

Some newspapers interpreted this to mean that Dr Asmal might compel certain tertiary institutions, particularly debt-ridden historically black universities, to merge.

In a letter to Saturday Argus (August 21), Dr Asmal clarified his views: "I will not simply decide to merge or close institutions."

It was only after examining the recommendations of the Council on Higher Education and institutions themselves that he would be in a position to act.

Dr Asmal wrote that the need to turn the system of higher education around was not negotiable. The system inherited was characterised by enormous fragmentation, inequalities, waste and inefficiencies.

He called on institutions to become more efficient and accountable in using their intellectual, infrastructural and financial resources.

Dr Asmal said that while he respected university autonomy, "it

tainly not looking at merging institutions, definitely not."

But, through the trust, various universities and technikon were engaged in co-operative programmes and rationalisation, especially at post-graduate level.

The five institutions were asked to comment on steps being taken to rationalise operations. This followed media speculation about which process Education Minister Kader Asmal would follow in pursuing his goal of a "rational, seamless higher education system".

Outlining his nine education priorities, Dr Asmal promised to review the institutional landscape of higher education in collaboration with the Council on Higher Education.

He said: "This complex and difficult exercise is likely to result in mergers between some institutions and decisions to change the mission of others. It is well known that institutions find it difficult to come to such decisions on their own."

"Provided the investigations have been thorough and consultation has been undertaken fully and in good faith, I will not hesitate to take the necessary action with all deliberate speed."

Some newspapers interpreted this to mean that Dr Asmal might compel certain tertiary institutions, particularly debt-ridden historically black universities, to merge.

In a letter to Saturday Argus (August 21), Dr Asmal clarified his views: "I will not simply decide to merge or close institutions."

It was only after examining the recommendations of the Council on Higher Education and institutions themselves that he would be in a position to act.

Dr Asmal wrote that the need to turn the system of higher education around was not negotiable. The system inherited was characterised by enormous fragmentation, inequalities, waste and inefficiencies.

He called on institutions to become more efficient and accountable in using their intellectual, infrastructural and financial resources.

Dr Asmal said that while he respected university autonomy, "it

While the Western Cape's three universities and two technikons have no intention of merging, there is active co-operation and the start of rationalisation between them.

Stellenbosch University's vice-rector in charge of operations, Rolf Stumpf, said a full-scale merger of institutions in the province was never discussed officially.

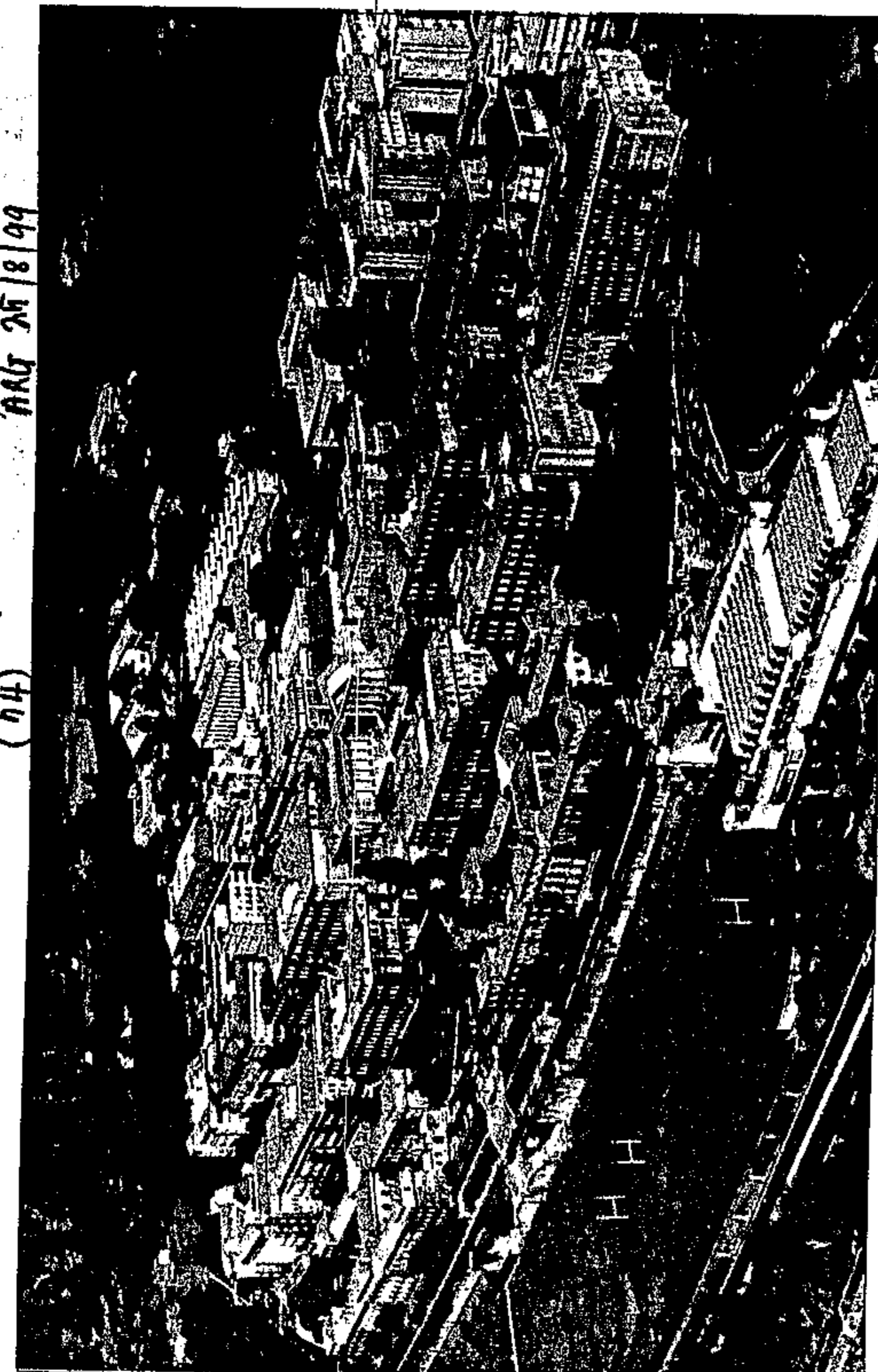
"So, talking of mergers in the region is a bit of a wild statement at the moment. But it does not mean we aren't co-operating in the academic field. Through regional co-operation we are seeking ways to optimise higher education delivery in the province," said Professor Stumpf.

The lead in pooling resources and courses is being taken by the Adamastor Trust (formerly known as the Western Cape Tertiary Institutions Trust) under the Vice-Rectors' Group, a non-profit body formed by the councils of the five institutions. Among its projects is the Cape Library Co-operative which is creating a single, digital library system for the region.

By the end of this year, the library collections of the five institutions will be linked through a computerised catalogue, giving about 70 000 users access to material.

Other trust projects include several aimed at improving science and technology, education and joint teaching programmes.

Nick Kok, senior vice-rector of the Cape Technikon and Adamastor Trust chairman said: "We are cer-



from time to time under the auspices of the Adamastor Trust and have been able to agree on macro-approaches to these organisational issues," said Professor Gevers.

He gave examples of "valuable and successful joint programmes" like museum studies, (between UCT and UWC), chemical engineering, (between UCT, Peninsula Technikon, Cape Technikon and Stellenbosch University) and labour law (between UCT, UWC and US).

Asked whether the schools of medicine at UCT and US would merge, Professor Gevers said the frequent attempts to produce various kinds of mergers "had all stumbled on the hard fact that such mergers were only cost-effective and successful when they took place within a single institution, like at the University of London for example".

Professor Stumpf, Stellenbosch's representative on the Adamastor Trust, said he liked to think Western Cape institutions had emerged from the "insular apartheid mould of the compartmentalisation" and into an era of co-operation.

He said his institution was co-operating closely with UCT in engineering and natural sciences, and with UWC in social sciences and humanities.

Professor Peter Vale, acting vice-rector: academic affairs at UWC said rationalisation should not be looked at only in terms of finance. "Academics and intellectuals have a responsibility towards knowledge and have to recognise that certain disciplines are in trouble due to market forces."

He said areas where partnerships were required included information technology and computing.

Professor Kok said his institution had rationalised departments with Pentech. In education, his institution concentrated on commerce and management while Pentech specialised in science and technology.

From 1998, higher education institutions were compelled to submit annual rolling plans to the department of education, including plans for regional co-operation. The heads of the five institutions and the Adamastor trustees will meet to discuss plans for regional co-operation.

Shared future? UCT seems likely to remain a separate institution - but increasingly co-operation between institutions will ensure resources are shared

doesn't mean that we can't, in the wider public interest, bring about changes which are necessary".

Asked if he was talking about merging entire institutions, Dr Asmal replied: "I'm not talking about that. It's a very dangerous thing to say." He said there would not be "sudden-death closures".

"Also what the optimum number of universities is, is not an exact science."

Dr Asmal said rationalisation could also mean rationalisation of expensive faculties between institutions. Whether two schools of medicine were needed in the Western Cape was "a moot point" because they were very expensive.

The policy and legal framework for transformation of the tertiary sector was laid under the previous education minister.

The Higher Education Act was recently used by Dr Asmal to advertise his intention to incorporate five provinces into either universities or technikons.

So far, no public universities or technikons have been merged, but there has been some consolidation between institutions.

An indication of how the Government could force change was the recent merger of the formerly whites-only faculty of veterinary science at the University of Pretoria

and the previously blacks-only veterinary faculty at the Medical University of South Africa.

The Government announced that it was prepared to fund only a single veterinary faculty, so the universities forged an agreement.

But sources within the education department and academe maintain Dr Asmal would prefer to negotiate the rationalisation of higher education, rather than using the Government's considerable financial clout to impose changes.

He is hoping the institutions will take the initiative in transforming. So what are Western Cape institutions doing about rationalisation?

Weiland Gevers, senior deputy

vice-chancellor at the University of Cape Town confirmed: "None of the three universities and two tech-nikons in the province has the slightest intention of merging with another."

But, he said there were "many activities in which resources available to the institutions have been jointly used" ever since establishing the Adamastor Trust in 1988.

"Of these activities, the ones most closely resembling discussions about large-scale rationalisation have been recent agreements as to the approach of the individual institutions towards the education colleges and nursing colleges."

"The heads of all five have met

# Asmal slams Cosas

*sewelan 26/8/99 (54) (50)*  
Cops ordered to deal mercilessly with culprits

**By Charity Bhengu and Sapa**  
**E** DUCATION Minister Kader Asmal summoned the national executive committee of the Congress of South African Students to his office yesterday after a disruptive illegal march on Tuesday.

About 3 500 Cosas members went on the rampage allegedly robbing people including two journalists, damaging cars and looting shops during a march that was supposed to raise concern about the Government and teachers' wage deadlock.

Asmal has called on the police to deal mercilessly with the culprits who damaged property.

At the same time, a war of words has erupted between Cosas and the police, with both sides threatening to take action against each other. The police said yesterday that they would charge Cosas with staging an illegal march which resulted in damage to property, according to police spokeswoman Mary Martins-Engelbrecht.

Cosas said it would lay a complaint with the Human Rights Commission against the police for allegedly attacking pupils during the march.

Asmal's office took a hardline against the pupils yesterday, saying they should have gone to school and used the opportunity to recover lost time rather than embark on a march.

The South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) refused to take a stand on the matter yesterday.

General secretary Mr Thulas Nxesi simply said: "No comment."

The Congress of South African



Pupils at Forte High School in Dobsonville, Soweto, have taken to teaching themselves as the dispute between teachers unions and the Government remains unresolved.

PIC: LUCKY MORAJANE

Trade Unions said it would not talk about the merits or demerits of the pupils' action because it had not spoken to them yet.

Spokesman Mr Mokone Ratshitanga said: "Not to recognise their rights to engage in any action they choose would seem very disrespectful."

The African National Congress'

Mr Smuts Ngonyama said they hoped Cosas had learned their lesson not to embark on a march without first consulting with the Government.

The New National Party launched an attack on Sadtu, saying the strike by teachers just before examinations was unconstitutional.

Spokesman Advocate André Gaum said: "Kader should commission an

urgent audit to determine which schools had not completed their syllabi and arrange extra classes to make up time lost and township pupils should be allowed to write different papers covering only a portion of the syllabus."

Cosas general secretary Ms Naomi Mangate said they had attempted to obtain permission for the march and

could not cancel it when they did not get it on time.

She said the protest was "peaceful until the police pounced".

Federation of Associations of Governing Bodies of South African Schools' Mr Paul Colditz said: "If the teachers who are supposed to be their role models are walking the streets, what example is that to the children."



## **City varsities unite to give Gerwel chair**

(54) ARG 26/8/99  
EDUCATION REPORTER

**In a groundbreaking move, the universities of the Western Cape and Cape Town have jointly appointed Jakes Gerwel to the Nelson Mandela Chair of the Humanities.**

He is expected to use the position to promote Afrikaans and other southern African languages and literature.

Professor Gerwel will hold the chair for five years. But the two universities are hoping to find an endowment to fund the chair longer.

Professor Gerwel left the University of the Western Cape when he was vice-chancellor in 1994 to take up a post as a special adviser to President Mandela – a post he relinquished after Mr Mandela stepped down in June.

The Nelson Mandela Chair is devoted to promoting inter-university co-operation.

Mr Mandela said in a letter that he was “very happy to learn of the possibility of a joint appointment between the University of Cape Town and the Western Cape.

“In that way the very necessary co-operation between two of our important universities can be enhanced.”

# Gerwel for UWC, UCT

EDUCATION WRITER

07 27/8/99 (54)

PROFESSOR Jakes Gerwel has been appointed the Nelson Mandela Chair of the Humanities for the universities of Cape Town and the Western Cape.

The Nelson Mandela Chair is a part-time inter-university chair shared between the two institutions and Gerwel will occupy this position for five years. It is devoted to promoting inter-university co-operation.

In his capacity as chair, Gerwel will profess and promote Afrikaans and other Southern African languages and literature. He will work in the Department of Linguistics and Southern African languages at UCT and the Department of Afrikaans at UWC.

Both universities are seeking an endowment to fund the chair, so that it can exist in perpetuity.

UCT Vice-Chancellor Mamphele Ramphela said Gerwel's return to the two universities would make available to staff and students the deep insights into contemporary South Africa and Africa.

UWC Vice-Chancellor Cecil Abrahams said UWC was delighted to "welcome home" Gerwel and it was well recognised that he is one of the most-gifted literary scholars of his generation.

# Challenges facing SA

**I**n a foreword to an illuminating book, *Blacks in Science*, Ivan van Sertima remarks: "Five centuries of falsehoods have been exploded in just five years."

"These saw the discovery of African steel-smelting in Tanzania 1 500 to 2 000 years ago, an astronomical observatory in Kenya 300 years before Christ, the cultivation of cereals and other crops by Africans in the Nile Valley 7 000 years before any other civilisation (and) an African glider plane 2 300 years old."

It may sound trite to echo these sentiments but, being an African father whose children are still to search for a first vocation in life, I ask myself some very simple questions:

- Suppose when I first went to school at the age of seven they had started teaching me these very "simple facts" about my people and my continent, how would that have shaped my world outlook and, in turn, how would that have impacted on my career aspirations?

- If my children continue to be denied knowledge of these simple facts, but instead learn much of the same "history" taught to me in days of yore, what are the prospects that they will escape the limitations of a perverted history?

- If the terms of our historical discourse are not radically altered, what are the prospects of my children escaping the same conceptual limitations I faced?

The potential for Africa's development has been a subject of many debates and theses. But equally many are the informed analyses as to why Africa has missed so many golden opportunities in the modern era.

In a keynote address to the World Federation of Technology Organisations in 1998, John Temple noted that the more immediate challenges facing the world today:

- Growing populations needing to be fed;
- Opportunities for low-skilled jobs are diminishing; and

- Wealth creation is the key to future development, but this process is skewed in favour of those who have technical knowledge.

Temple asserts that the message arising is that we must educate our people in technology. But such education must be underpinned by several considerations:

- Technologists must be employable, flexible and wealth generating;
- Basic sciences (mathematics, physics and so on) must be as important as reading in the early phases of our education systems;
- Academia must stay close to industry;
- Educationalists must galvanise Government support and enthusiasm;
- Overall, we must engender a learning rather than a training culture.

Tertiary level education in South Africa needs to concentrate on producing the type of graduate the economy needs, writes **Mashupye Kgaphola**



**South Africa must produce more graduates, especially in science and technology, to provide a viable skills base for a technology-driven economy.**

PIC: PICTURENET

If one looks at the unfolding situation in South Africa, some of the critical issues highlighted become even clearer.

Various studies have shown that during the past three decades the South African economy has, in fact, been in a steady decline in terms of labour absorption capacity.

For example, it is estimated that the average labour absorption capacity between 1984 and 1994 decreased from 82,7 percent to 53,9 percent.

From 1975 through to the 1990s, the percentage of new labour entrants who were able to find employment in the formal sector declined from 45 percent to 15 percent.

## Economic paradox

In recent times the country has been experiencing the economic paradox of jobless growth.

In real terms, the shortage of critical skills, and more especially technological and management skills, derives from the historical exclusion of black people from these professional pursuits.

Equally, women have been marginalised from the economic mainstream.

To appreciate the disparities and the extent of redress needed, one needs to consider the following higher education trends:

- In 1995, the total university student enrolment was 374 131, of whom 230 871 were black;

- In 1996 the total university student enrolment was 382 348, of whom 245 302 were blacks;

- Of a total of 4 680 doctoral and masters degrees awarded at universities in 1996, 3 656 went to white graduates, while the remaining 1 024 went to blacks – the African component was a meagre 663.

These statistics clearly indicate that the current system in South Africa has been inefficient in providing a viable skills base for a technology-driven economy.

At the macro-level, the task must be the generation of graduates, more especially black graduates, in science and technology.

These skilled cadres would then become the anchor for a truly knowledge-driven economy. But to do this South Africa must contend resolutely with its history and legacy.

Black people continue to face multiple hurdles in educational and professional life, and innovative ways need to be found to confront this strategic national challenge.

The challenge assumes an even sharper dimension when one considers the reportedly steady emigration of skilled white South Africans.

Clearly this emigration represents a drain on the skills base of the country. The real strategic alternative then becomes the acceleration of the entry of black people into the science and technology arena.

Besides, a sociopolitical imperative exists already to turn the locus of economic activity in favour of black people.

The critical question thus remains whether South Africa, at the level of policy and the polity, will have enough vision and courage to grapple head-on with the challenges.

(The author is a senior policy analyst at the National Research Foundation and public relations officer of the Association of Black Scientists, Engineers and Technologists. This is an edited version of his address to the All Africa Symposium on Engineering, Technology and Economic Development at the University of Fort Hare Institute of Technology recently.)

## Universities pilot projects

**By Victor Mecoamere**  
Education Correspondent

**EIGHT** universities are running a pilot project aimed at establishing a culture of community service by tertiary institutions and their students, said Mr Joe Lazarus of the Joint Education Trust in Johannesburg yesterday.

Lazarus was one of the key speakers at a Community Service in Higher Education Projects seminar which ends today at the Parktonian Hotel in Braamfontein.

He said the participating institutions were the universities of the North, Natal (two campuses), Free State, Transkei, Witwatersrand, Western Cape and Cape Town.

Lazarus said the participating universities' ongoing community services work started a number of years ago with a Kellogs-sponsored health programme mostly in rural communities.

The programme would be monitored with a view to its being replicated by

other tertiary institutions.

The trust initiated the pilot project after several key findings of its research into higher education institutions revealed that fewer or no tertiary institutions initiated or joined community development programmes.

The question was asked why technicians were seemingly excluded from the institutions taking part in the pilot project during a subsequent question and answer session.

The session featured several delegates from different government departments and student organisations.

The seminar, which has been organised by the South African Graduates Development Association (Sagda), is a continuation of the ongoing work of a Ford Foundation-sponsored Community Service in Higher Education Project.

Sagda's graduate development programmes include the placement of unemployed graduates in self-help projects, community work and jobs.

*Sowetan 31/8/99*

# One-man commission to probe college's 'illegal' initiation rites

(272) (54)

**TARIQ HALIM**

STAFF REPORTER

ARC 11/9/99

An independent one-man commission has been appointed to investigate the "illegal" student-orientation practices at Elsenburg Agricultural College.

The Human Rights Commission reported last month that initiation ceremonies at the college "violated the constitutional rights to human dignity, freedom and security of the person, privacy, freedom of association and right to property".

Chris van Staden, an administrator with the old Cape education department, has been appointed by the department of economic affairs, agriculture and tourism to conduct a full

investigation into the Human Rights Commission's findings.

He has been asked to evaluate the code of conduct and orientation of students; make recommendations about the best way to familiarise staff and students with the Bill of Rights; evaluate the college's pass marks and, if necessary, make recommendations about steps to improve them.

The commission's inquiry into initiation practices at Elsenburg College was sparked by a complaint from the parents of first-year student Stephen Barnard. Annette and Alan Barnard said new students were forced to wear gumboots and overalls, shave their heads, call senior students "baas", were deprived of sleep, and were caned by senior students.

# Language an issue in debate over university mergers

ARJ 2/19/99

CLIVE SAWYER

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The language of instruction in some universities and technikons could be affected by possible future mergers.

Education Minister Kader Asmal, replying to questions in the National Assembly by Andre Gaum of the New National Party, said any decision would take into account

the recommendations of the Council on Higher Education, which was obliged by law to advise him on language matters in higher education.

Asked whether mergers were envisaged, Mr Asmal said there would have to be an assessment of the optimal number and type of institutions needed for a higher educational system "that grasps the intellectual and professional challenges in the 21st century".

However, decisions on mergers would not be taken arbitrarily.

Professor Asmal confirmed he had called for a review of the "institutional landscape" in conjunction with the CHE.

"This does not mean that institutions can fold their arms until the outcome of the review process.

"Reconfiguration of the institutional landscape is not simply about mergers, it is also about greater

accountability for the more efficient use of intellectual, infrastructural and financial resources."

Institutions were being called on to collaborate closely, particularly at a regional level, to reduce duplication or overlap in programmes.

"This co-operation will lay an important basis for the emergence of new institutional and organisational forms," he said.

Natal and ML Sultan technikons

had started a study on the feasibility of a possible merger.

In addition to these initiatives, the 1997 Higher Education Act provided for the incorporation of colleges of education, nursing and agriculture into higher education, Professor Asmal said.

The process of incorporation of colleges of education was at an advanced stage and in some cases could lead to mergers, he said.

# Asmal gives Cosas 'hiding of its life'

CORNIA PRETORIUS

IN HIS toughest stance yet on ill-discipline, the Minister of Education has warned the Congress of South African Students that he will not tolerate disruptive behaviour or be intimidated by its actions.

In a meeting with the pupils' organisation in Pretoria this week, Kader Asmal gave Cosas a dressing-down described as "the hiding of their lives".

The meeting followed repeated public confrontations with the organisation as it called for apartheid-style separate examinations and held a violent march through Johannesburg two weeks ago.

When Cosas announced it would march, Asmal told them to go back to school.

When they defied him in a march to the Gauteng Education Department that turned into a rampage and left damage and stolen property in its wake, he responded by telling the police not to leave a stone unturned to find the culprits.

Bheki Khumalo, spokesman for Asmal, said this week the minister had told Cosas he was not going to heed its demand for separate

exams because it didn't "make sense" and pupils had "failed to motivate their case".

He said Asmal had asked Cosas to write him a letter explaining how separate exams would improve race relations and deracialisation, how such an exam could be managed and the results released, and what the effect of a "township matric" would have on pupils' employment opportunities.

"The minister doesn't accept the creation of a ghetto apartheid education. As an ANC member, he fought in the struggle for a non-racial society and we cannot allow a return of it," Khumalo said.

The president of Cosas, Lebogang Maile, said the organisation "didn't agree with the

minister" but — with the examinations only a few weeks away — "our differences must not affect ordinary students who depend on their matrics for life".

He said he would explain Cosas's stand on a separate exam in writing.

He said Cosas had asked the ANC to call a meeting in October for the organisation to talk to the

minister and the government about problems such as the delivery of textbooks and stationery and the readmission of pupils.

"We want to come up with a position now to prevent problems next year."

Asmal's dressing-down of Cosas follows other efforts by the minister to tighten his control over discipline problems.

Two weeks ago, he summoned the council of the University of North West to a meeting after the preliminary findings of a forensic audit showed possible irregularities.

The council then suspended the acting vice-chancellor, Professor Takatso Mofokeng, so that investigators could complete their work.

And last month he told the management of Mangosuthu Technikon in Umlazi, Durban, he wanted students and lecturers back in class and would send an independent assessor to get to the bottom of problems.

The meeting followed four weeks of strikes on the campus and a shooting incident in which students and a lecturer were wounded.

*'The minister doesn't accept the creation of a ghetto apartheid education'*

(54) STS/9/99

# 'Cinderella' colleges fed up

**THE STATUS** of technical colleges in South Africa is under the spotlight at a two-day symposium in Cape Town ending today. Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.

**T**ECHNICAL colleges receive little credit for the role they play in South African education — and it's about time the government woke up to the importance of these institutions.

This was the key message which college delegates at the Partnership 2000 symposium wanted to convey yesterday to Education Minister Kader Asmal, who had to leave the symposium before these sentiments could be expressed.

Asmal delivered the keynote address at the opening of the two-day symposium, which began in Cape Town yesterday.

Organised by the Corporate Communications Forum of Western Cape Colleges, the symposium aims to help establish and strengthen links between industry and training colleges and foster mutually beneficial partnerships.

Molly Venter of the Committee of Technical College Principals said technical colleges have been regarded as the "Cinderellas of education providers" ever since the allocation of "T" courses to technicians in 1981, and came into existence because of "the dys-

function of primary and secondary education".

Forum chairperson Cathy Robertson said technical colleges have been ignored for far too long and are "tired of being Cinderella for education".

Last year there were about 39 000 more students in engineering and business studies at technical colleges than in the previous year.

For higher education courses offered by colleges, there were 12 000 more students than in 1997.

"It is apparent from these numbers that technical colleges have an extremely important role to play as providers of further education and training in South Africa," Venter said.

She questioned whether the government could afford to underestimate the role of colleges in this sector and asked when the government would identify the role of colleges as providers of higher education.

"I find it profoundly strange that the ability of colleges are in doubt as higher education providers. As the honourable min-



**RATIONALISATION PLAN:** Education MEC Helen Zille

ister (Asmal) has said, enrolments at universities and technikons have declined in the past few years. As can be seen, that was clearly not the case for colleges," she said.

Western Cape Education MEC Helen Zille also addressed the symposium and said that colleges would be at the heart of the further education and training system, providing crucial life skills that were easily transferable in the world of industry.

She said her department has proposed the "clustering" or amalgamation of technical colleges in the Western Cape, which will effectively reduce the number from 18 in 1994 to nine in the near future.

Zille acknowledged that there

has been some resistance to the idea of clustering colleges, but said it is part of a plan to use resources more effectively and prevent duplication of services.

"Ironically, this reduction in administrative entities does not mean the reduction of the provision of this type of education and training."

"On the contrary, the number of sites administered by technical college education has increased to 35 and the number of learners to over 30 000," Zille said.

Of particular significance to technical colleges is the soon-to-be established Sector Education and Training Authorities (Setas), said Zille.

Technical colleges have traditionally had a close relationship with the Department of Labour, with the apprenticeship system being an example of this, she said.

"I urge academic boards of technical colleges to engage proactively with Setas to ensure that education and training initiatives are aligned and that we avoid unnecessary duplication."

"In terms of my department's clustering programme, clusters of colleges will be assigned an education and training focus which directly supports the economic and developmental objectives for the Western Cape," Zille said.

# Asmal lashes out (74) at SA varsities

ROBERT BRAND  
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

**EDUCATION MINISTER Kader Asmal** yesterday took a swipe at South Africa's top universities, saying the standard of teaching at institutions such as the University of Cape Town is "appalling".

In a speech to the Cape Town Press Club, Asmal, who caused controversy recently when he said some higher education institutions were superfluous and might have to merge with others, said universities appeared to be trapped in a culture suited better to the past than the 21st century.

A recent meeting with UCT vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphele had left him with the impression that universities were "out of date", "dysfunctional" and applying teaching methods "redolent of 50 years ago".

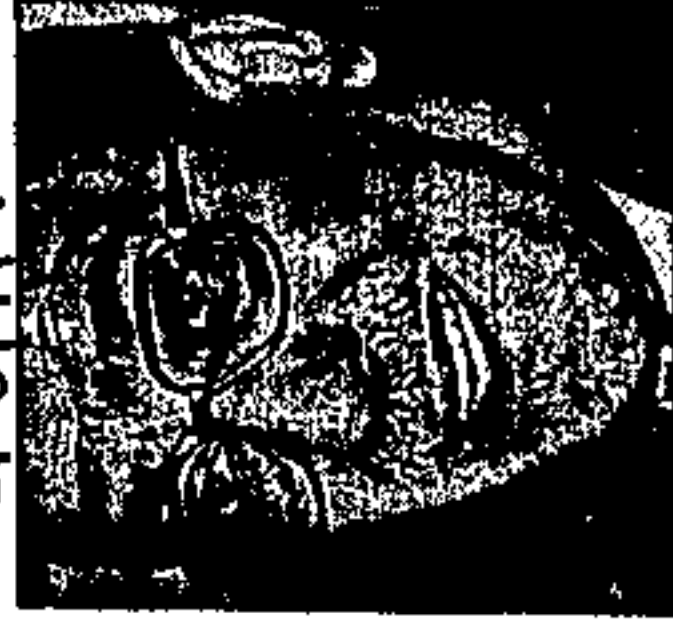
"The standard and way we do things at our universities is appalling," Asmal said.

The education minister, whose energetic style has signalled a new approach to tackling education issues since he was appointed to the portfolio in June, said the trouble at universities was part of a broader malaise in the education system.

Although there were "excellent" laws and policies governing the education system and many committed people working within it, his brief stint at the education ministry had left him "extremely concerned".

"It is not an exaggeration to say that there is a crisis at each level of the system. Large parts, if not all, of our education system are dysfunctional ... redolent of the teaching of 50 years ago."

Apart from purely education-related problems, schools faced "the most grim and daunting chal-



**CLAMPDOWN:** Minister of Education Kader Asmal

lenge" of dealing with HIV/Aids infection among pupils and teachers, both of whom came from high-risk age groups.

In addition, schools were racked by violence and drug abuse, the latter having become "endemic", Asmal said.

His department had set performance targets for the nine provincial education ministries.

He will meet with the education MECs every three months to monitor whether these targets were being met, Asmal said.

If the provincial education departments failed to rise to the challenge, "heads will roll", he vowed.

Asmal also signalled that he would clamp down on teachers who did not perform their duties to his satisfaction.

Following shortly on his decision to dismiss five Soweto teachers convicted of performing sexual acts with female pupils — and to appeal against their lenient sentences — Asmal said he was going to institute proceedings against three Mitchells Plain teachers who still practised corporal punishment.

"I will not stand for that. I will prosecute them," he said.

# University autonomy at what price to broader SA society?

(74) 009/9/99

## Universities and technikons need closer scrutiny of how they spend their government subsidies, writes Primarashni Pillay

UNIVERSITIES and technikons are subsidised by up to 70% by government. They are left to their own devices to decide how they spend their subsidies on research and teaching. This is done in the name of autonomy.

The education department sets policies, norms and standards, but does not intervene in the running of the institutions.

As of last year, universities and technikons were required to submit three-year rolling plans to the department that indicated their student projections, staff recruitment, equity and development forecasts, business plans and student development plans.

These institutions still have autonomy over how they function. There appears to be little monitoring of their activities. Taxpayers have almost no knowledge about how they spend their money, what they are doing about curriculum transformation or staff equity.

Some of the institutions' managers are being investigated for mismanagement and corruption. Media reports have alleged that the principal at the University of the North receives a salary in excess of R1m.

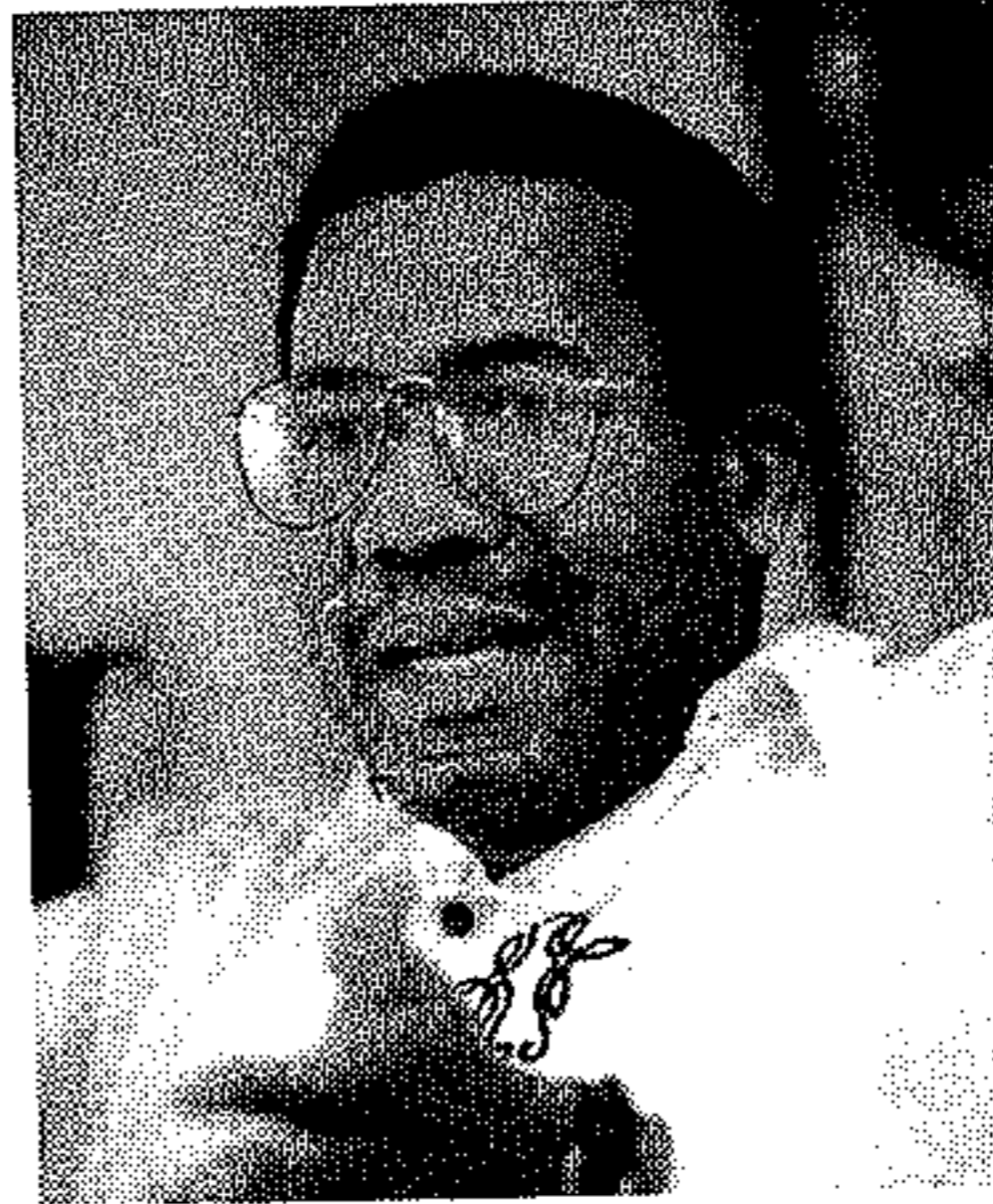
Prof William Makgoba, president of the Medical Research Council, says universities and technikons should report to Parliament annually on their activities in the interest of public accountability and enhancing their autonomy.

"At the moment autonomy is used for secrecy. The lack of accountability allows the system not to change," says Makgoba.

He says organisations like the SA Human Rights Commission, the Gender Commission and the Medical Research Council, which are government-funded and autonomous, report to Parliament.

Academic Joe Teffo of the University of the North argues that it should be legislated that institutions report to Parliament and that they "need to account for every last penny they spend".

Makgoba says the report to Parliament should include details such as how much is being spent on research and teaching, how many graduates are being pro-



**Institutions should report to Parliament, says William Makgoba**

duced in each faculty and whether they get jobs or leave the country.

This would allow the public to judge whether it was worth supporting institutions that were producing, for example, Bachelor of Arts graduates who could not be employed.

"Institutions need to provide information so that the public can judge whether the work they produce influences the policies of SA and whether what they are teaching is relevant to the challenges of globalisation and competition."

Makgoba says the reports should touch on staff profiles. "The report would need to reveal whether the staff is consistent and compatible with laws of affirmative action and staff equity."

Some institutions may reveal laudable programmes. "If something is laudable it should be encouraged," he says.

Teffo argues that reporting to Parliament would not infringe on academic freedom as there is a difference between institutional freedom and academic freedom.

Piyushi Kotecha, CEO of the SA Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association, says a system of reporting to government already exists and there is no need to duplicate this. She says that the subsidisation of institutions is based on data submitted to the department.

Kotecha says it would be expensive for each university or tech-

nikon to produce a report for Parliament. The Council on Higher Education, which has a monitoring role, would compile an annual report on higher education.

Teffo says each institution already produces its own annual report which, if modified, could be submitted to Parliament with few extra costs incurred.

Prof Saleem Badat, head of the Council on Higher Education, says institutions do produce information about their activities. He asks who would read 36 reports from SA's higher education institutions and what purpose it would serve.

He also raises the issue of whether all schools and colleges in SA should submit reports on their activities. Badat warns that the higher education system cannot be overhauled immediately, just because government decides it should. "It's very easy to hammer institutions without understanding the context they operate in."

Badat points out that the Higher Education Act is two years old and institutions are embedded in traditions and history. Quick-fix solutions should not be expected. He says some institutions have employment equity policies and others do not.

Furthermore, there is not a big pool of qualified personnel to draw from to fulfil the requirements of employment equity.

"You could try to pursue a comprehensive project (of transformation) but you can't implement all programmes simultaneously. Institutions prioritise in different ways."

Badat says it will take between 15 and 20 years for institutions to transform.

Teffo, however, is adamant that these institutions need to be monitored vigorously by a group that is appointed specifically for this purpose. "Through monitoring, money could be saved and the quality of teaching and learning could be enhanced," he says.

SA's public tertiary education institutions are not above the constitution. Therefore, they have to be accountable someone — and that would be the public, the source of their funds.



# Govt wants to blacklist students who don't pay

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

CT 10/9/99 (54)

NEW legislation to blacklist university students who owe their respective institutions money is part of a series of changes that will be implemented by the education department next year.

The department has drawn the line regarding mounting student debt at tertiary institutions countrywide and will act against erring students from next year.

Students owe universities and technikons R730 million in student fees, of which at least R385m was incurred last year.

Also, foreign temporary students studying at South African universities will now have to pay fees in their respective currencies.

These changes form the core of three pieces of legislation that Education Minister Kader Asmal will be introducing in Parliament this month. They are the National Student Financial Aid Scheme Bill, the Higher Education Amendment Bill and the Education Laws Amendment Bill.

Advocate Eben Boschoff, director: legal services and legislation in the education department, said that during the legislative process various options were evaluated, but in the end it was decided that while most methods and structures under the old laws were quite useful, there were immense difficulties in recovering money from students.

Under the Student Financial Aid Scheme Bill, the Tertiary Education Funds of South Africa (Tefsa) will be converted into a statutory body and will cease to function privately.

Under the new bill, the recovery processes for student debt is tightened. Through an undertaking given by the South African Revenue Services and an obligation from employers of the students, money owed to universities

will be deducted from salaries.

Boschoff said blacklisting was another option, but only after steps had been taken to get the student to pay.

"There will also be tighter control with the granting of loans, and there will be an obligation on all bodies to provide accurate information to ensure there is no double dipping into resources. Information will be correlated so that only needy, eligible students receive the funds."

Under the Higher Education Bill, the council of a public higher education institution will

be able to differentiate between foreign students who are not permanent residents. This would allow the minister and the institution to use a differentiated fee structure.

"It means that a student paying pounds may pay more in pounds than a student paying in rands. At the moment it is the reverse, a person coming from England is paying a tenth of the

fee because of the currency exchange. It is very unfair because they are getting a very good education for a cheap price," he said.

The Education Laws Amendment Bill provides for the amendment of the SA Certification Council Act, following the corruption regarding the Mpumalanga matric results.

The changes would ensure that there can be no confusion or corruption with exams.

The bill includes an amendment to the Employment of Educators Act which sets a two-month timeframe within which a governing body or council must make its recommendations when a teacher is appointed. In the case of temporary teachers, no recommendation from the governing body is needed.

With regard to excess teachers, a temporary transfer for a specific period can be arranged and if the teacher is not appointed in that school, he must return to the original school and rejoin the loop for redeployment, he said.

*'Information will be correlated so that only needy, eligible students receive the funds.'*

# More revelations at varsity

*Sowetan 7/9/99 (54)*

## By Mbongeni Hlophe

THE saga of the cancelled Miss Ongoye contest and botched music festival scheduled to be held at the University of Zululand becomes more intriguing as each new farcical revelation surfaces.

Yesterday it emerged that one of the promoters "disappeared" with R15 000 - part of the payment set aside to pay two of the invited music groups Bongo Maffin and Thebe.

This news follows hot on the heels of the mysterious withdrawal from a bank in Bloemfontein of R60 000, paid to Tsogo Promotions, the company tasked with organising the two events.

Inexplicably, Tsogo Productions had promised Brenda Fassie as a programme draw card - despite it being widely known that the top-class performer would be in Sun City at the Kora Awards

presentation at the time of the supposed scheduled appearance at Unizul.

The promoter - known only as Norman - was apparently given money to forward to the managers of kwaito groups Bongo Maffin and Thebe.

The two groups were among six groups scheduled to perform after the Miss Ongoye beauty contest.

The event was disrupted by an outbreak of rioting.

The contest attendants demanded their money back because Fassie had not arrived for the concert.

"The money was cleared last week, but Norman is nowhere to be found," said Julius Mekwa, artist manager of the Bongo Maffin and Thebe groups.

Norman's disappearance was noticed yesterday when it was discovered that a sum of R60 000, set aside for the contest, had been withdrawn in Bloemfontein.

Mekwa said he had been paid only half of the R30 000 he invoiced the university for the performance of the two groups under his management.

University of Zululand public relations officer Mr Carl de Villiers said an investigation was under way to establish who made the mysterious withdrawal.

Failure to deliver resulted in chaos when the angry audience trashed the Bhekuzulu Hall. In the process a person was killed and six others were seriously

Then, apparently, members of Bongo Maffin arrived at the campus at 2am demanding their money. However, they were not paid because of their late arrival. The beauty contest had already been called off.

SRC president Mr Godfrey Ntombela laid all the blame at the door of the campus security staff for allegedly firing teargas at the audience inside the hall.

"We were surprised that security officers just opened fire on the audience and we demand that the university management suspends the officers that were on duty on the day of the riots," said Ntombela.

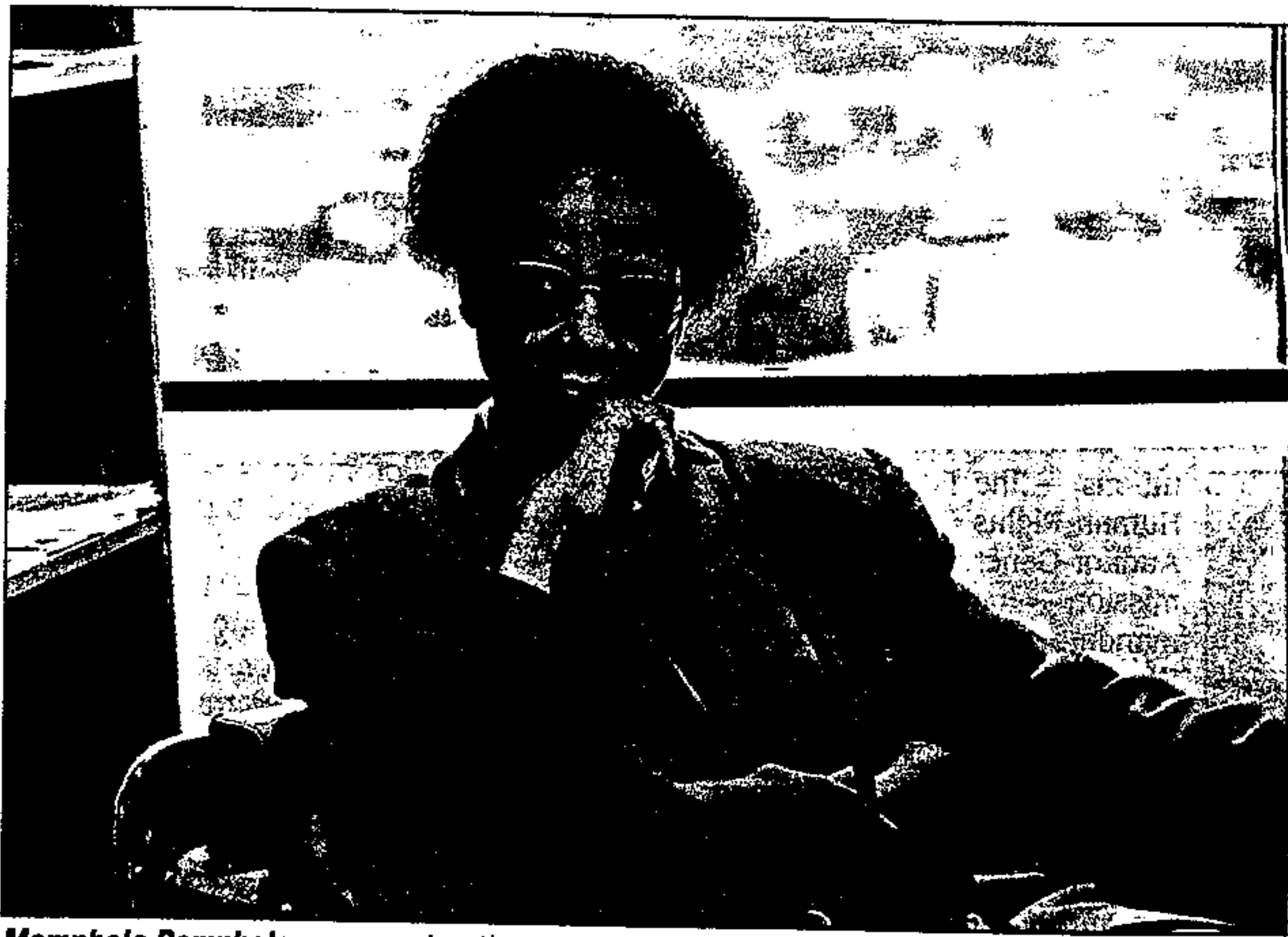
Ntombela said this was despite the SRC's attempts to calm down the situation that had got out of hand.

Director of Tsogo promotions Mr P Mokoena was not available for comment.

"We are still trying to find out who withdrew the money so many kilometres away," said De Villiers.

He was adamant that the student representative council (SRC) should take full responsibility for what had happened on the campus on Saturday night as well as for the disappearance of the money.

"We told the SRC earlier that something was suspicious but the council members insisted that we pay the money. This was despite our warning that we knew Brenda Fassie was scheduled to be in Sun City for the Kora Awards on the same night as the contest," De Villiers said.



Mamphela Ramphele . . . pruning the academic tree of deadwood

## HIGHER EDUCATION

# NECESSARY MEDICINE TO CORRECT IMBALANCES?

Humanities lose as subsidy system tailored to national needs

**A**ngry and frightened academics at the University of Cape Town (UCT) have hit out at the vice-chancellor, Dr Mamphela Ramphele, accusing her of trampling on academic freedom in her determination to turn the institution into a "worldclass African university".

They are incensed by her remarks made in an interview with the *Cape Times* on August 3, in which she described her actions as "pruning the tree of deadwood" and accused the humanities faculty of dishing up "a dog's breakfast of courses".

Her comments came soon after academics on the Humanities Faculty's board rejected a report from the dean, stipulating that the faculty cut 42 senior lecturer posts. Some departments face losing half their staff.

In letters to the press, Prof Peter Horn of UCT's classical and modern languages department, describes Ramphele's statements as "an insult", while Associate Professor of English Stephen Watson accuses her of all but destroying academic freedom by allowing bureaucrats to ride roughshod over academics in determining the new structure of degree programmes.

UCT's acting vice-chancellor Prof Wieland Gevers (Ramphele is away) de-

nies that academics' input is being ignored and pledges "thorough attention to due process when dealing with change, and to a collegial approach to discussing these issues."

But much damage has been done. Watson says morale among his colleagues, university-wide, is at an all-time low.

The pain that UCT is experiencing in restructuring its academic programmes — both to cut costs, devolve power to the faculties, and shift resources to centres of strength within the institution — is being felt across the university sector.

Universities are all under financial pressure after a decade of underfunding by government. All are being forced to cut back on unprofitable departments and to capitalise on their strengths in order to compete in the marketplace.

UCT has cut the number of faculties from 10 to six while Wits University is discussing a plan that will reduce the number of faculties from nine to six and from 99 departments to 35. The pressure is particularly acute on the humanities and many universities have already closed departments of religion, music and language.

At the same time, there is a shift towards more specialised degrees. For in-

stance, UCT's Faculty of Education has been reduced to a department within the Humanities Faculty, and has shifted to specialised teacher training.

To some extent this is necessary medicine for SA's higher education sector, which has evolved in an unco-ordinated fashion. Because of SA's apartheid past, humanities departments have proliferated, resulting in unnecessary duplication.

In 1994, humanities and education accounted for 65% of students, science and technology for 20%, and business and commerce for a mere 15%.

To correct this imbalance, the Department of Education is changing the subsidy system to bring the sector in line with national needs. In future, earmarked subsidies will support mainly those courses designed to redress apartheid inequalities and meet the technical skills shortage. This gives government a powerful tool to influence what is taught.

It comes down to whether a government battling to build houses should be subsidising the teaching of classical languages, or whether a country at our stage of development can afford the luxury of pursuing knowledge for its own sake. But it is a bitter pill to swallow for those who have always believed that academic freedom means the freedom of academics themselves to decide what should be taught, how it should be taught, and who should do the teaching.

"It's a weird and painful transition," says Wits dean of Arts Prof Gerrit Olivier. "There's a danger of real damage being done as we move from general formative degrees like BAs and BScs, to narrow market-orientated degrees. It's a highly questionable development because the requirements of the job market are unstable."

He calls for universities to co-operate when cutting departments to ensure intellectual resources are not lost to an entire region.

Regional co-operation is being fostered among the Western Cape's universities and technikons. Joint courses are offered in political science, management skills and social theology. A similar approach has been adopted in Natal, but in many cases these efforts are hampered by the competitiveness that has developed in response to government's new policy direction.

"Universities have two responsibilities," says University of the Western Cape acting vice-rector academic affairs, Peter Vale, "to use resources more effectively and efficiently, and to ensure that important areas of knowledge are protected."

How they discharge this function will be crucial. Universities should be accountable to government; they should not be held hostage by it.

Claire Bisseker

(54)

fm 10/9/99

# SRC pair 'conspired' to get money

THREE members of the University of Venda's students representative council have been found guilty of irregularities in the arrangements for a student party on which they spent R450 000, writes **CORNIA PRETORIUS**.

A disciplinary committee found that Mpho Sekomeng and Bishop Mushweu, the SRC president and project officer respectively, "conspired to obtain

money from the university by false pretences". It was also alleged that they channelled R100 000 of the SRC funds to the Azanian People's Organisation to register for the June 2 elections.

The committee also found that Sekomeng and another student, Victor Mokgotho, took items from a hotel room in which they stayed in Johannesburg to make arrangements for the party.

ST 12/9/99

# Embracing the future

**T**EN years ago the University of Pretoria strongly reflected the old South Africa in its outlook and methods. It was out of step with a world that was hurtling towards a new millennium, it catered almost exclusively for white Afrikaners, its language policy marginalised it from the academic mainstream locally and abroad, it was out of touch with the needs of the majority and it suffered a credibility crisis because of its historical association with the apartheid politics of the past.

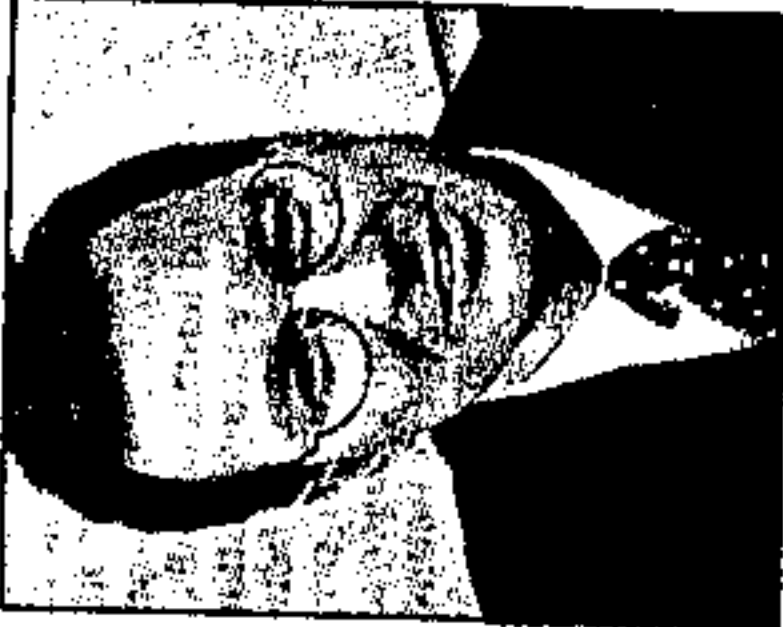
It is hard to believe it is the same institution today. It has embarked on a radical transformation programme aimed at making it internationally competitive. At the same time it is working towards bringing it closer to the people, not only of South Africa, but of both the subcontinent and the continent.

In the process it has scrapped its Afrikaans-only language policy and grown its black student population to make up 30% of the student body — up from zero in 1990. It has also placed itself at the cutting edge of technologically driven education delivery systems, forged international partnerships in business and science with the world's top companies and academic institutions, and attracted to its ranks many of South Africa's most highly rated academics.

It has become an attractive option for English-speaking students who previously would not have attended the wildest dreams.

institution for academic as well as political reasons. Five years ago more than 80% of its students were Afrikaans-speaking and less than 5% were white English-speakers. Now 55% are Afrikaans, and 45% of the students choose to be taught in English.

In short, Pretoria University has transformed itself from an outpost of white, conservative South Africa to the point where it is entirely inclusive, and playing an im-



RECTOR JOHAN VAN ZYL

portant role in the transformation process.

Perhaps nowhere is this more strongly symbolised than in its efforts to reach disadvantaged students through its revolutionary telematic education programme. It is also attempting to ensure that despite their remoteness and poverty, they still have access to learning that is world class and relevant, and potentially empowering beyond their wildest dreams.

Over and above its 27 000 students on campus, it now has 35 000 students off campus of which 95% are black.

The rector of the university, Professor Johan van Zyl, says the university's transformation has been driven by two major forces.

"First has been the relevance issue, the need to bring it closer to the people. And second has been the issue of internationalisation — the realisation that unless we are internationally competitive, we can forget it."

Van Zyl admits that until recently the university, which began in 1908 with 32 students and 10 professors, had "relatively weak links with international academics, and even with liberal institutions in South Africa. Part of our transformation is to embrace the general values of a universal university system," he says.

While its image has become softer in human terms, academically the university has tightened up. "We don't offer courses that are not internationally accredited or evaluated regularly. We'd rather close down than offer stuff that is not of an international standard."

A key element in this drive for academic excellence is hiring the right staff, and the university has deliberately set out to find them. "If there are good people out there who can make a contribution, we'd like to have them," says Van Zyl. "We've managed to get some of the most internationally visible and renowned scholars from the

The University of Pretoria has shed its conservative image and is now ideally positioned to face the challenges of the new millennium. CHRIS BARRON reports. Pictures: JEREMY GLYN



INTO THE FUTURE: Students at the University of Pretoria are assured of the highest standards in education

University of the Witwatersrand, Natal University and the University of Cape Town. In the past year we've got 30 or 40 world-class academics from other South African institutions, which places us in a different league."

In tandem with this, the university has increased the

diversity of its staff, bringing in black academics both from South Africa and Africa.

Van Zyl also makes no bones about the fact that while the university intends continuing its drive to attract students from outside its traditional demographic catch-

ment area, it wants only the best.

"The key is to get good students, and this lies in admission criteria," he says. "We only take the very best. We have higher entry requirements than anywhere else."

Allied to this is a policy of helping those who prove

their worth by passing their exams. Almost half of the approximately R200-million collected in fees is ploughed back in terms of bursary support. This, says Van Zyl, has helped the university attract the best disadvantaged students and fund them appropriately.

# Getting positioned as a true competitor

THE University of Pretoria has focused on subjects that have substance and that can be translated into job opportunities.

Reflecting this focus is the fact that 47% of its students are enrolled in "hard" courses such as agricultural, biological and natural sciences, engineering and dentistry. Eight thousand students are studying commerce and 2 000 students are enrolled in first-year economics.

The rector of the university, Johan van Zyl, says: "Part of our transformation is catering for areas where we believe people can find jobs, and where we have a relative advantage over other institutions."

Courses in the arts, for instance, are chosen for their relevancy and with future jobs in mind. Courses such as information science, where demand for the resultant skills is great, are touted.

Many courses have been re-engineered to make them more applicable to the working world. For example, language courses have been linked to specific skills. "We've linked our language courses to things like cultural tourism. People who do these courses are in demand as tour guides," says Van Zyl.

Anthropology is another course that has had value added by being linked consciously to skills required in the tourism industry.

"We've transformed the arts system," says Van Zyl. "It's no longer a generic BA that you can't do anything with. It is now targeted. You do your three majors, but get skills in computers, tourism or other subjects that are marketable."

The university has also focused on areas where it feels it can compete with the best, and has stripped itself of those where it lacks the capacity to be internationally competitive.

"We concentrate on areas where we can add value," says Van Zyl. "We focus on areas where we are among the best departments in the country. If we don't have the people who can position us to be the best, we'd rather not do it."

This approach is part and parcel of the university's goal to run itself as a business, concentrate on its core competencies, stop wasting money on areas where its ability to add value is limited, and cut down on overheads.

"Our major success story has been a re-orientation from a cumbersome academic administration to a leaner, more businesslike approach," says Van Zyl. "This is the way all the top institutions around the world are going."

# Wracking brains to raise funds

2012/9/99 (54)

## The University of the Western Cape is devising a plan to fight prejudice and boost its future growth

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — SA's universities, faced with dwindling student numbers and diminishing grants from central government, are having to find innovative ways of raising funds.

The University of the Western Cape's management has been engaged in soul-searching to both define the university's identity and formulate a strategic plan to foster its future growth over the next five years. It plans to embark on a local fundraising campaign to boost the minuscule amount of donations that the private sector has historically made to the institution.

The university encounters the same prejudice which all previously disadvantaged universities labour under, says finance director Graham Botha.

While its educational standards are of the highest, aspirant students believe they will get a better degree from institutions such as the University of Cape Town, which historically were well funded by the apartheid government.

While all universities have had to deal with a fall-off in student numbers, the experience of universities such as the Western Cape has been far worse. Two years ago, it had 13 469 students. This year it has only 9 000. As the formula for government funding is partly based on student numbers, the decline has resulted in the diminution of grants.

Botha said the funding formula takes no cognisance of the fact that the University of the Western Cape plays a critical role in capacity building, bringing students at great cost to a level where they can participate fully in a tertiary

educational institution. Unfortunately, these students are then often drawn to historically advantaged universities.

This year the university got R165m from the state, R80m from students in the form of academic and residence fees and R40m from donors, overwhelmingly foreign. The fact that it balances its books is largely due to a protracted retrenchment exercise it underwent last year when 400 staff members left the university. However, there are no funds for critical needs such as expanding library facilities and science laboratories and upgrading the residences.

To convince would-be students and donors and help combat prejudice against the university, it has installed stringent quality control mechanisms to monitor pass rates and ensure that its students receive a good education.

A key element of the strategy is to enhance the image of the university in the private sector. Vice-rector Peter Vale says the university has an excellent law faculty, school of dentistry, history department and school of government. Management sciences is the fastest-growing faculty.

The university, with its long history of active social engagement and critical inquiry, has also proved adept at finding sociological applications for technology to address pressing social problems such as the management of water resources.

On the academic front, the university is planning a special set of post-graduate courses for next year, also its 40th birthday. These could include courses in women and gender studies, water science and rural poverty.

(64)

# University closes after student demo

BD 14/9/99

THE University of North West in Mafikeng was closed indefinitely yesterday following protest action by students on the campus.

Students were demanding that the student representative council be suspended.

They accused the body of squandering thousands of rands of the university's funds and of performing poorly in general. The council has denied the allegations. The students refused to go to classes until the council was suspended.

After talks between university management and students, management said the active and subversive involvement of different bodies and political affiliations outside the university community was noted with great concern.

"We would like to stress that the university regards its autonomy as an uncompromising attribute of democracy, and would like to retain it at all costs. We would therefore appreciate the opportunity to resolve our own affairs," management said in a statement.

Management said students had unlawfully embarked on a strike and barricaded the main entrances to the campus, making it impossible for staff or students to proceed with their normal duties. The university management said it "found the violent demonstrations on campus totally unacceptable ... (they) were an infringement of the rights of staff to perform their duties and the rights of students to study."

"Actions such as intimidation, hijacking and barricading are criminal offences and cannot be tolerated on campus."

Management said it had called on the appropriate structures within the institution to investigate allegations against the students' council.

The students' council has been given a list of the allegations for its comment. — Sapa.

# Medical school to apologise for racial discrimination (74)

BB 16/9/99

## Wits says 'sorry' to black doctors, writes **Nomavenda Mathiane**

THE University of the Witwatersrand medical school will apologise publicly to black medical student graduates who suffered racial indignities at the university before 1994.

This follows proposals from the university's Internal Reconciliation Commission report, released in November 1998, which recommended that the faculty should publicly acknowledge past racial discrimination and issue an apology to those affected.

Prof Joe Veriava, deputy dean of the faculty of science, said a function is planned for early next year where a plaque bearing an apology will be unveiled.

Veriava, who has been involved in the university's commission and was an activist during the apartheid years, said the process of reconciliation at Wits medical school came after hearings of the truth commission in 1997.

While collecting information and opinions from faculty and past students for its internal report, the university found there was anger and resentment over past discrimination, which had not been acknowledged or resolved.

Black doctors who made submissions to the university's commission said they were barred from attending a post-mortem conducted on a white body.

Dr Suliman Dockrat, one of the first blacks to be accepted to study

dentistry in 1962, recalled how he was inadvertently placed with white students to attend post-mortems. On the second day of classes, the pathologist's assistant picked him out in the presence of about 250 student and asked: "Hey you, what are you doing here?"

Other incidents mentioned were that in the 1950s and 1960s the medical school ran a hospital shuttle service between the Johannesburg General and Baragwanath and Coronation hospitals.

Only white nurses and white medical students were permitted to use the service. Black students who did not have cars and whose financial resources were limited had to find their own way.

White students were permitted to borrow photographic slides overnight for study, but this privilege was denied to black students.

"Their sense was that black students could not be trusted with these valuable items," said Dr Anver Adam.

"As a black student, I did not feel welcome at the university. In my view, the faculty considered our training and success to be incidental and peripheral," said another black doctor.

Few black doctors embarked on post-graduate training. One reason was the discriminatory conditions of service for black doctors in the hospitals. Blacks believed they were discriminated against in the

selection process for post-graduate posts.

Dr Jubilee Kgomo, who qualified at Wits in the early 1960s, said Wits tried hard to pretend to be autonomous and free of considerations of colour, but it was not.

"We knew for instance if a post-mortem was to be done on a white corpse only white students were called into the hall.

"And when it was to be done on a black corpse, everybody was allowed in," he said.

He said he was happy that Wits had the grace to own up its errors and conduct an audit of the things that went wrong.

"It will hopefully put the record straight for the future generation of doctors and the public," he said, commenting on the internal report findings.

The report states that there were heads of clinical departments and other staff who were opposed to the institutionalised discrimination enforced by the government.

With a few exceptions, the majority of those in authority were acquiescent by virtue of their silence.

The report recommends the faculty should commit itself to increasing significantly the enrolment of black students.

It also recommends that the composition of teaching staff becomes more representative of the country and racial domination should be eliminated.



# Report finds racial bias at some Tuks residences

RACISM and racial discrimination existed at a number of Pretoria university's residences, the SA Human Rights Commission has found.

In a report released yesterday, the commission said room allocations at some hostels appeared to be based on race. Some black students claimed they were not allowed to use recreational facilities.

The commission proposed that the university sever ties with the Dutch Reformed Church owned Sonop residence, saying it was refusing to adopt the institution's affirmative action policies.

The hostel has a population of 148, of which only one student is black.

"It is recommended that the university severs ties with this residence and allows it to operate independently and not impede the university's attempts to transform," the report said.

"The continued association of the university with this residence may tarnish the image that the university wants to portray to the outside world."

The commission also suggested that facilities at the Karee residence, occupied only by black students, be

improved. "Compared with the other residences, Karee is very poorly resourced," it said.

"Apart from a TV room, there are no recreational facilities or cafeteria."

It recommended an investigation into claims of racism and racial violence at the Boekenhout residence.

The black students said they were harassed when entering the white section of the building, "Volkstaat".

"A meeting with house committee members left the commission in no doubt that there are racial tensions at this residence," the report said.

The university said it had not yet received the report and could not comment on its contents.

"Information we have received from the media indicates that a number of matters have been taken out of context, while some of the incidents in question happened years ago," said university spokesman Leon Rademeyer.

The spokesman said the university found it unacceptable that the commission released its report to the media before making it available to the affected parties. - Sapa

(54)  
1991/10/17  
Power

# Racism rampant at Tukkies

Mafikeng student 'committed suicide after alleged haranguing by committee'

BD 17/9/99

(54)

Nomavenda Mathiane

RACISM and racial tension are rampant at the University of Pretoria, human rights commissioner Pansy Tlakula says.

Addressing the media yesterday on the commission's investigations and findings on racism at the university, Tlakula said racial discrimination in various forms existed at the university's residences, particularly at its Karee, Sonop and Boekenhout residences.

She said rooms at Boekenhout were allocated by students and the corridors were racially divided, while Karee was mainly a black residence.

She said in all residences visited by the commission, house fathers and mothers were appointed according to the racial composition of the residence.

The commission recommended that officials in managerial positions should be exposed to human rights issues and the bill of rights.

The commission also released findings of the investigations into the disciplinary procedures being implemented at the International School of SA in Mafikeng, in North West.

The commission had received complaints from students at the school that Tabo Mwenechanya and two other students had been questioned continually about alleged misconduct behaviour on the school premises. Mwenechanya subsequently committed suicide.

Tlakula, who presided over the Mwen-



Tlakula ... rights were violated. Picture: MARTIN RHODES

chanya presentation, said the commission did not investigate the death of Mwenechanya but concerned itself with the disciplinary hearings against youths that were

held by the school.

She said an inquest into Mwenechanya's death would be conducted and would hopefully throw light onto the reasons for his death.

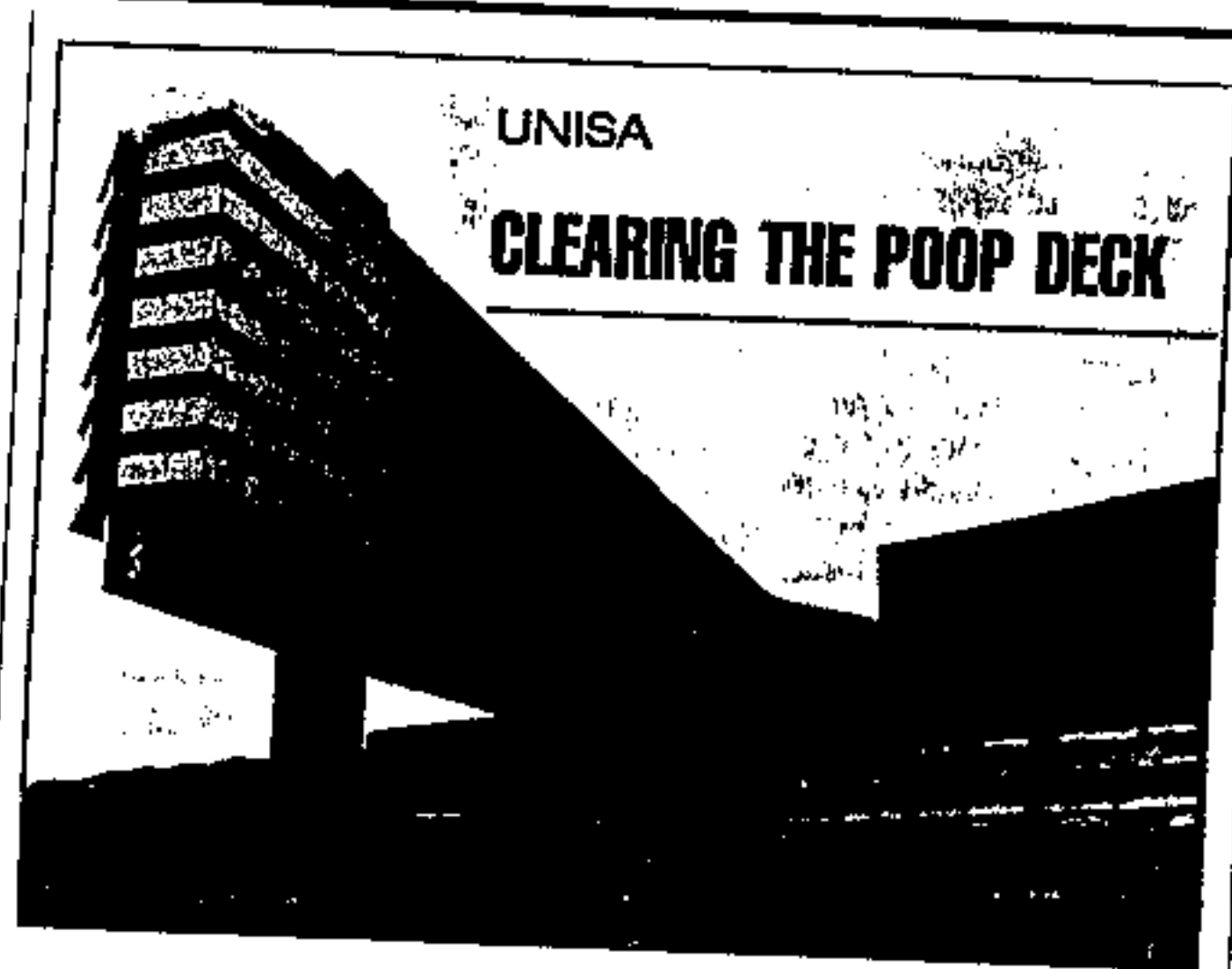
Tlakula said the commission found that the conduct of the school constituted violations of Mwenechanya's rights, and in conducting themselves in the manner in which they did, the school officials showed no respect for the "essential intrinsic worth of Mwenechanya as a human being", said Tlakula.

Commissioner Jodi Kollapen then addressed the issue of a complaint made to the commission by Freedom Front leader Constandt Viljoen about a statement by KwaZulu-Natal African National Congress (ANC) leader Dumisani Makhaye.

After the killing of 86 dogs belonging to the black community around Muden in KwaZulu-Natal, Makhaye said: "The killings would lead to the conclusion by the African community in the area that they were not protected and that it may lead to them killing the farmers and razing their farms to the ground. These white farmers will have themselves to blame."

Kollapen said the commission's finding was that the statement did not constitute hate speech and was constitutionally acceptable.

"It is necessary to point out that the day after the statement, a clarifying statement was issued by the ANC and a meeting between the ANC and the farmers was held a few days later," Kollapen said.



UNISA

CLEARING THE POOP DECK

The University of SA (Unisa) has granted early retirement packages to 121 senior academics. The move will save the university more than R27m/year and make way for several new

black appointments.

Unisa vice-chancellor Prof Anthony Melck says the university was forced to take the step in response to a fall-off in demand for school-related

subjects like history and biblical studies.

The faculties of Arts and Education have been the hardest hit. The Department of Nursing is losing three professors, but no departments are closing.

Of the 121 vacated posts, 93 positions are being frozen. Melck says every effort will be made to fill the remaining 28 posts with black appointees to comply with the Employment Equity Act.

Unisa's loss is the private universities' gain. They are interviewing some of the top-class academics over the age of 55 that have taken golden handshakes from Unisa.

"It's a nice opportunity for the private universities to get quality people," says the head of a private business school in Gauteng. "I've had some ap-

proaches from excellent people coming out of Unisa."

Melck concedes that early retirement packages are "a bit of a blunt instrument" and says "there are many that I am sorry to see go", but that this does not mean Unisa has suffered a huge exodus of expertise. He says Unisa employs more than 3 000 full-time academic and administrative staff.

"The early retirement option has given us a relatively painless solution to a difficult problem. The fact that we managed to do it without any acrimony is a major achievement."

Some administrative staff have also taken packages.

Melck says the university turned a R108m deficit in 1997 into a surplus last year. Unisa is expecting to achieve a surplus again this year. Claire Bisseker

32 FINANCIAL MAIL · SEPTEMBER 17 · 1999

## Ndebele joins UCT faculty

PRISCILLA SINGH  
EDUCATION WRITER

CT 17/9/99

FORMER University of the North vice-chancellor Njabulo Ndebele has been appointed to the De Beers Chair of English in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Cape Town.

He is currently the scholar-in-residence at the Ford Foundation in New York, where he is completing a novel.

An accomplished scholar, Ndebele studied at Cambridge University in England and Denver University in the United States, where he obtained his PhD in English, American literature and creative writing.

He has 17 years of experience in teaching, writing and researching and is the author of several



APPOINTED: Njabulo Ndebele

publications, including his award-winning *Fools and Other Stories*.

The head of the department of English at UCT, Associate Professor Lesley Marx, said: "We look forward with much pleasure to (Ndebele's) participation in the life of the English department, particularly in its creative writing programmes."

Ndebele is due to join UCT in April next year.

# Ramphele to quit UCT for bank

ARL 20/9/99 (54)

## Announcement tomorrow

MURRAY WILLIAMS  
STAFF REPORTER

The University of Cape Town is set to lose its vice chancellor, Mamphela Ramphele, who is tipped to take up a senior position at the World Bank.

It is understood that Dr Ramphele has accepted a key position at the bank, although the exact title of her new job cannot yet be confirmed.

UCT spokesman Paddy Atwell would only say today: "I'm not in a position to comment".

An announcement on Dr Ramphele's appointment is expected tomorrow.

Although it is not clear when she will leave, it is understood her new job means she will have to move to World Bank headquarters in Washington.

The World Bank's South African administrative officer, Rebecca Naidoo, could not confirm details of Dr Ramphele's appointment.

The vice chancellor was attending meetings in Johannesburg today and was not available for comment.

Dr Ramphele's move will leave UCT's top post vacant. She was appointed as the university's eighth vice chancellor in 1995, becoming the first black person and the first woman to occupy the post.

Dr Ramphele holds a medical degree, a BCom degree in administration and a PhD in social anthropology.

She also holds three honorary doctorates and is the author of several books.

The process of appointing a new vice chancellor is arduous, involving months of extensive interviews with potential candidates.

Dr Ramphele has stated publicly that she would not stand for a second five-year term at the university.

Rumours of her World Bank move have been circulating at the university for months.



World Bank post:  
Mamphela Ramphele

6 -

SOWETAN Monday September 20 1999

# Black students to get apology

By Zandile Nkutha

**T**he University of the Witwatersrand's Faculty of Health Sciences will publicly apologise to black doctors for discriminating against them when they were students.

This follows recommendations by an international reconciliation commission report on the faculty released last November.

The commission concluded that there was a general lack of sensitivity

to black students who qualified at the faculty before 1994. The report said the faculty colluded with racial apartheid and enforced racial discrimination.

Prof Joe Veriava, the deputy dean at the faculty, said: "The faculty plans to apologise to all those students, staff and patients who were hurt or affected by apartheid practices of the day."

"Black people were discriminated against and need some kind of reconciliation."

The commission recommended that the faculty publicly acknowledges past

racial discrimination and issues an apology to those affected by it.

While the president of Medical Research Council and a former deputy vice-chancellor at Wits Dr Malegapuru Makgoba welcomed the apology and said it was long overdue, he said it was not enough.

"They must not only apologise to black medical students but to all black people" he said.

Prof Peter Folb, the acting dean of the University of Cape Town Faculty of Health and Sciences said the discrimi-

nation of black students at Wits at that time would not have been different from the experience of black students at his university.

Dr Oumatjie Mpata, a former Wits student who qualified in 1994, said the apology would make no difference.

She said she had no reason to believe that unfair treatment of black students at Wits Medical School had changed.

She said during classes the lecturers prevented black students from examining white patients but both black and

white students could examine black patients.

Dr Bharat Singh of Benoni who graduated from Wits in 1978 said public acknowledgment of the faculty's discrimination against black students was absolutely necessary, but it would "never remove the insult we felt at the time. The faculty should be ashamed of the way it treated black students".

The University of Natal's acting dean for the Faculty of Health and Sciences Professor Jack Moodley was not available for comment.

# Ramphele takes top bank post

ART 21/9/99 (54)

MURRAY WILLIAMS  
STAFF REPORTER

The vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, Dr Mamphela Ramphele, today formally announced her appointment as one of four managing directors of the World Bank.

Dr Ramphele will report directly to the president of the bank, James Wolfensohn, and will be based in Washington. She will hold the portfolio of managing director: human development, with global responsibility for education, health and social services. Dr Ramphele will be the first person to occupy this new position. Mr Wolfensohn said it was historic that an African, and a woman, had been appointed to the post of managing director.

Acting chair of the university council, Tony Sarr, said she would be a member of the bank's



Mamphela Ramphele

"inner cabinet" and that her appointment was to one of the most senior positions in an international agency occupied by a South African.

Speaking at Welgelegen at UCT, Dr Ramphele said today was one of the most significant landmarks in her life and she described the new job as "the opportunity of a lifetime".

Dr Ramphele said she believed the university was now a different campus from the one she had inherited from her distinguished predecessor, Dr Stuart Saunders.

"Although, we - and I in particular - have our critics, I am satisfied that enough has been achieved in this period of reconstruction and renewal for me to accept the offer with a clear conscience."

There was no mention of who her successor at UCT might be.

## Technikon head on suspension

By Mbongeni Hlophe (54)

THE council of Mangosuthu Technikon yesterday resolved to suspend the institution's rector, Professor Aaron Ndlovu, until a final decision on his fate is taken next month.

This follows recommendations by an independent assessor, Professor Jaap Durand, who was appointed by Education Minister Kader Asmal to investigate the cause of a recent four-week strike by staff members.

The council appointed vice principal Professor Charles Zingu to take charge of the technikon.

In his report, Durand described Ndlovu as an "autocratic dictator" who was always not accessible to staff except a small group he used as his informants.

Durand said relations between Ndlovu and most of the staff members had deteriorated alarmingly.

Staff members went on strike in protest against Ndlovu's alleged refusal to allow the National Union of Technikon Employees to operate on campus.

The strike resulted in the shooting and wounding of three students and a staff member earlier last month when members of the Combat Security Force fired at protesting students.

The council resolved that Ndlovu should not be on campus until October 4, when a final decision on his fate would be taken by the council, the staff representatives and the students' representative council.

The technikon spokeswoman, Ms Annamia Main, confirmed that Ndlovu would not be on campus until the next council meeting in October.

*Journalist signature* 21/9/99

# Students in study debt set to be blacklisted

**PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU**  
 Blacklisting students who do not repay their study loans and deducting payments from their salaries will be some of the measures government will implement to improve the recovery rate of loans.  
 Education Department director Eben Boshoff told Parliament's committees on education yesterday that the National Student Financial Aid Scheme Bill provided for employers in the private sector and the South African Revenue Service to claim payments from a student.  
 "We looked at international systems and if a person borrows and does not fulfil his obligation (to repay) it would be possible to blacklist them. Such a person will then have recourse to the courts of law. This will make it much easier to put a lot of pressure on an individual to ensure that they cannot renege on their obligation," Mr Boshoff said.

## Asmal targets financial rot in higher education

**Linda Ensor**  
 CAPE TOWN — Ministerial intervention in public higher education institutions that suffer from financial or other maladministration is provided for in the Higher Education Amendment Bill tabled in Parliament yesterday.  
 Education Minister Kader Asmal will be able to appoint an administrator for such institutions for a maximum period of one year. The memorandum to the bill stated that during the past year "an appalling lack of management capacity, especially financial management capacity, has come to light at some of the public higher education institutions."  
 "The councils and management of these higher education institutions are not complying with their fiduciary responsibilities. Given the high cost of higher education and the fact that it is mainly funded through public resources, a need has been identified for direct intervention by the minister."  
 Yesterday Asmal expressed "extreme disquiet" over the state of provincial education budgets. "Almost everywhere, the financial provision of provincial education in the (past) few years has impacted negatively on the quality of education services."  
 The National Student Financial Aid Scheme Bill, also tabled yesterday, provides for a scheme which will provide loans and bursaries to eligible students.  
 The state will be the main funder and international donations will also be sought.

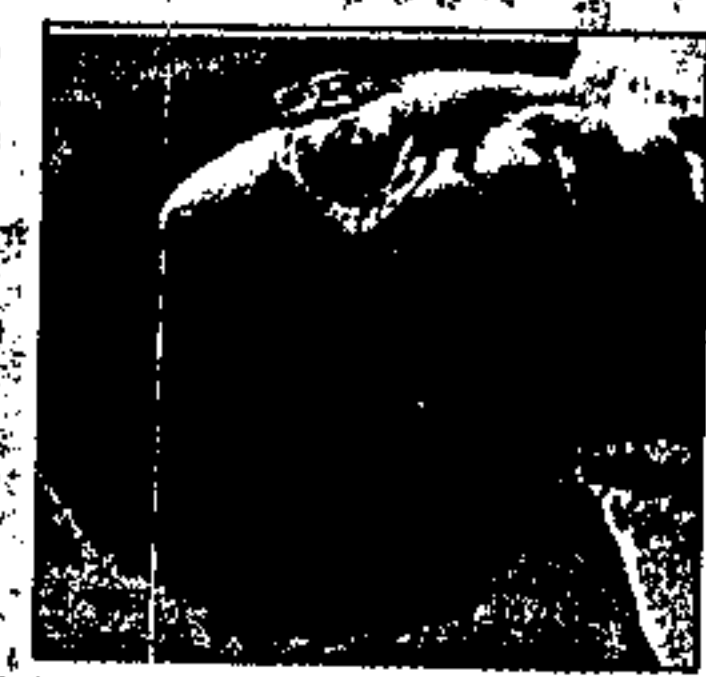
## Ramphela appointment lauded

**Linda Ensor**  
 CAPE TOWN — Education Minister Kader Asmal yesterday lauded the appointment of University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphela as one of four MDs of the World Bank with specific responsibility for education, health and social services.  
 Ramphela's Washington-based post will be one of the most senior ever occupied by a South African in an international agency. She will report directly to bank president James Wolfensohn and will take up the post next year.  
 "This shows the extent to which (SA's) new nonracial democratic order has been freed from the shackles of the past in that we are not only able to reap harvests of skills abroad, but also provide our best brains and resources to enrich world organisations like the World Bank for the benefit of humankind," Asmal said.  
 "She will go with the best wishes of her country, including the education sphere. I have no doubt that in due course she will be back to strengthen our institutions and our democratic way of life."  
 Mamphela said yesterday she saw human development in Africa as a huge priority and would not neglect this in her new post, which is for five years and renewable.  
 Ramphela, active in the black consciousness movement in the 1960s and 1970s, was banished to Tzaneen in the mid-80s.  
 As vice-chancellor she upheld demanding standards of excellence and led programmes to achieve equity and transformation.

# MACHEL 'VERY KEEN'

## Graça tipped for top UCT post

**HAVING TURNED DOWN** the University of Fort Hare's offer of a top post, Graça Machel may join UCT as its chancellor. Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.



**'VERY KEEN':** Graça Machel may join UCT as its chancellor.

**MACHEL**, wife of former president Nelson Mandela, has accepted a nomination to join the University of Cape Town as its chancellor, a well-placed source at the university said yesterday.  
 A decision on Machel's appointment is expected at the end of this month. It is believed that the university council has voted on the nomination and is waiting to contact Machel for confirmation on whether she will take up the post.

Machel is widely known for her dedication and commitment to education and passion for life-long learning and is an internationally recognised expert on education. She is also a lawyer, the former minister of education in Mozambique and the supervisor of a UN report on the impact of armed conflict on children.  
 Yesterday a spokesperson for Machel, Zaida la Grange, said the former first lady was in the Philippines and was going on to the manager, said plans were under way to employ an outside contractor to do the gardening and maintenance on campus. He denied that the outsourcing was a bid by the university to save money, but said the move was so the campus could focus on its "core" business of education. "Our primary focus has to be teaching, learning and researching. The management of non-core business like cleaning,

gardening and the maintenance is not in the best interest of the university."  
 But the union's chief shop steward on campus, Leonard Malukaze, said they were unhappy about the decision. "We are filing an urgent application to stop the outsourcing of labour and the dismissal of our members," he said. The union believed that the university's motive was financial.

Paul Abrahams, UCT human resource

## Union outraged by UCT plan to replace gardeners

**YUNUS KEMP**  
 SIMF REPORTER  
 The National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union is to apply to the Labour Court for an interdict to stop the University of Cape Town from replacing about 250 campus workers with "outside labour".

# Machel

right up my street. My qualifications and experience lie exactly in the fields of education, health and social services.  
 "Since graduating with a medical degree from the University of Natal in 1972, I have given 27 years of 'national service' in these fields to this country — at times in places that were of the security police's rather than my own choosing," she said.

The position of chancellor has been vacant since Harry Oppenheimer retired in June 1996. Oppenheimer served as the university's titular head for nearly 30 years. In the absence of an appointed chancellor, Ramphela role-played on an ad-hoc basis.  
 Meanwhile, UCT will be calling for nominations for candidates to fill the post of vice-chancellor. Ramphela has assured the council that she will not leave for Washington until she is absolutely certain that the incumbent is "tightly holding the reins". She will be leaving early next year.

Education Minister Kader Asmal said of Ramphela's appointment that it showed the extent to which the new non-racial democratic order in South Africa had been freed from the shackles of the past and that "we are not only able to reap harvests of skills from abroad but also to provide our best brains and resources to enrich world organisations like the World Bank for the benefit of humankind".  
 Mandela has also given his blessing to Ramphela's move, while expressing regret that South Africa will be losing her skills.

"We believe that the university wants to retain the same services, but at a low salary rate."  
 "The university community will be shocked to know that workers here were going to be paid R6 an hour," said Mr Malukazi.  
 The application by Nehawu to the court will be heard on November 17, 18 and 19.

CT 22/19/99

ARC 22/19/99

CT 22/19/99

CT 22/19/99

# Ramphelle 'steered UCT on the right course'

ART 22/9/99

**MURRAY WILLIAMS**  
Staff Reporter

Three years after the University of Cape Town inaugurated its first black vice-chancellor, Dr Mamphela Ramphelle is again on the move.

Few would contest the verdict that in the past 1 000-odd days, "a phenomenal process of change has been imposed on the university", as one observer puts it.

While still just a candidate for the vice-chancellorship in 1995, Dr Ramphelle promised "fundamental transformation and change".

She argued that UCT had to leave its colonial past behind and stop churning out "good little Englishmen". She vowed to sweep away the "deep-seated colonial mentality among the majority of managers" and lambasted English-speakers for not learning to speak a black language. She was determined to create "a world-class African university".

Yesterday, as she announced her acceptance of the position of managing director in charge of human development in education, health and social services at the World Bank in Washington, most appeared to agree with Dr Ramphelle when she said: "Although we - and I in particular - have our critics, I am satisfied enough has been achieved in this period of reconstruction and renewal for me to accept the offer with a clear conscience."

"Whoever is my successor will be able to consolidate, and build on, the foundations that have been laid for a new approach to tertiary education in this country."

Yet there is also a view that the university has been over-burdened with change, that the changes were imperative, but that Dr Ramphelle tried to change too much too fast.

Others say she lacked tact and "shot from the hip". In a recent letter to the press, UCT Professor John Cartwright argued that "in this process of 'transformation', dissenting voices were either ignored, dismissed as reaction-ary or said to be suffering from 'change fatigue'."

**'UCT is now run as a business, committed to balancing its books'**

Yesterday, as she announced her acceptance of the position of managing director in charge of human development in education, health and social services at the World Bank in Washington, most appeared to agree with Dr Ramphelle when she said: "Although we - and I in particular - have our critics, I am satisfied enough has been achieved in this period of reconstruction and renewal for me to accept the offer with a clear conscience."

But UCT Staff Association head Steve Fortuin says: "Sometimes a person has to be ruthless to achieve objectives."

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
SALDRU LIBRARY



Mamphela Ramphelle: 'the rank and file might have been uneasy ... that (transformation) might have gone too slowly. But her office always had reasonable explanations'

needed someone to put transformation and funding (because of declining government subsidies) higher on the agenda.

"Radical changes were needed in line with changing priorities of the national education system."

Mr Fortuin, whose staff association comprises about 1 200 administrative, secretarial and support staff members, says: "UCT was at the crossroads."

He agreed with Dr Ramphelle that UCT was now a different university, saying it had "a sharper focus and sense of urgency and clear, formalised strategic goals".

But Mr Fortuin insisted UCT's experiences under the vice-chancellorship of Dr Ramphelle had not been unique: "People, being human, are slow to adapt to change. The dramatic changes in the rest of the country had to be played out at UCT as well. What happened at UCT is a reflection of what happened nationally."

Roger Adams, chairman of the Black Staff Association (membership of about 70 academic, administrative

and support staff) was "particularly happy with her open-door policies, which we often used. We found her to be very frank and direct."

"I know she has been under pressure, as all university executives have been, for speedy transformation."

"At times, rank and file might have been uneasy with the pace of things, too slowly. But her office could always back up issues with reasonable explanations."

Dr Marais believed the processes Dr Ramphelle started were not likely to stop: "She now has enough time to make sure the processes continue."

"Her successor will have a difficult act to follow."

There are some staff members who feel "cheated" that Dr Ramphelle will not see out her five-year term, as this had been a concern at the start.

Whether Dr Ramphelle's departure mid-next year is greeted with grief or relief, no one will accuse the outspoken former student activist, doctor, community development worker, academic researcher and author of lacking courage of conviction. She has made an indelible mark, and there appears to be little doubt that she will not do the same at the World Bank.

Dr Marais said UCT had met all the targets she had set for it for 1997, 1998 and 1999, and she said she would not leave the university without leaving sufficient time for an overlap with her successor and a smooth transition.

She had spoken to former president Nelson Mandela.

He had said he would have wanted her to stay at the university for longer, but was "excited about the opportunity to 'democratise' the World Bank and put issues important for development on the table".

# Doing what she does best - globally

Speaking at a press conference at Welgelen, at UCT, yesterday, Dr Ramphelle said: "There have been many landmarks in my life, but today must rank as one of the most significant ... I have the opportunity of a lifetime."

"In many ways, as the person who will be responsible at the (World) Bank for education, health and social services, I shall be doing what I have been doing here in South Africa from the time I began work as a young doctor at Zanempilo community health centre outside King William's Town in 1975 - but this time on a global scale."

She said her qualifications and experience "lie exactly in the fields of education, health and social services".

"Since graduating with a medical degree at the University of Natal in 1972, I have given 27 years of 'national service' in these fields to this country - at time in places that were of the security police's rather than my own choosing."

"So I feel ready to involve myself in them on a global scale as we head into the 21st century."

"In doing so, I shall not be deserting either the country or the continent of my birth. I see human development in Africa as a huge priority and I shall not be neglecting this in my new post."

Dr Ramphelle said UCT had met all the targets she had set for it for 1997, 1998 and 1999, and she said she would not leave the university without leaving sufficient time for an overlap with her successor and a smooth transition.

## A vote of thanks

Congratulations with a political message attached have been offered in Parliament to University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphela on her appointment to a top post at the World Bank.

New National Party education spokesman André Gaum tabled a motion noting her huge contribution to tertiary education, both as an academic and a university leader.

Her appointment should continue to serve as an example for the future of tertiary education in South Africa, he said. — Political Correspondent

# 'We have created a model for higher education for SA'

In UCT's weekly newspaper, the Monday Paper, Dr Ramphela states: "There can be no denying that substantial change has been imposed on the university by myself and my senior academic colleagues over the past three years. Not everyone likes us for this, as is to be expected."

"Some people are vehement, even

vitriolic, in expressing their opposition. And yes, we may well have made some mistakes along the way.

"But the changes have all occurred with the approval of the university council and the endorsement of the senate, on which all full professors sit."

She explained that before taking over the reins, she had "worked very

closely with Dr (Stuart) Saunders in planning the transformation of this university — and I know that he, and others, expected me to continue and extend the process of transformation that he had started".

"I like to think that, over the past five or six years, UCT has helped create a model for higher education that will serve not only the university

well, but South Africa, too, in the years ahead."

Among successes, Dr Ramphela counts a review of "gross distortions in our salary and wage structures".

"In a nutshell, we overpaid at the bottom level and underpaid at the top."

"We needed to review and rationalise our staffing structures and numbers to ensure we retained the

best and eliminated dead wood.

She also says: "We had too many faculties."

There are now just six, down from 10, plus the centre for higher education.

On the student body, "we have an enrolment of nearly 16 000 students, of whom about 30% are post-graduates and 11% are foreigners."

"About 52% of our students are African, coloured or Indian and 48% are white."

"Remarkably, our African students are of equal proportions of Xhosa, Zulu, Tswana and Sotho descent."

"At a staffing level, we have a very long way to go to arrive at gender and racial equity, but our policy guidelines have been set."

# 'Activist to academic to executive'

M+G 23-30/9/99 (54)

## Marianne Merten

**O**utgoing University of Cape Town (UCT) head Dr Mamphele Ramphele is confident she leaves behind a world-class institution of academic excellence in Africa.

The student activist turned university vice-chancellor is set to take up one of four World Bank managing director posts towards the middle of next year. She will be responsible for human development, education, health and social services. Ramphele is the first South African and woman to be appointed to such a senior post in an international agency.

In an exclusive interview with the *Mail & Guardian*, Ramphele said transforming UCT has been crucial to show there is excellence in Africa and the developing world. After four-and-a-half years heading what she calls "the premier university in Africa", UCT has finally developed a vision for itself. And this process has been tricky.

"Cape Town often sees itself as a little piece of Europe stuck to the continent," she said. "The university had to address what it means to the African. The university, I

believe, has found its African feet."

Ramphele said the often severe criticism from academics and workers of the rationalisation and transformation processes was expected. But the programmes have received the support of the university senate and council.

During her tenure as vice-chancellor, the number of faculties was reduced from 10 to six, an aggressive affirmative action policy was implemented, deans were given more managerial duties and non-academic functions like cleaning and gardening were handed over to contracted-out private companies.

"Some have reacted very negatively. But there is the need for academic institutions to become part of modern life. I wasn't surprised to get criticism. I think it is also healthy to see voices of dissent. It's a celebration of academic freedom."

UCT had to secure enough resources to ensure excellent standards of teaching and research. "I think academic institutions have traditionally been run like monasteries with some paternal figure taking decisions after a collegial forum talked until midnight. There was no focus and a lack of direction."

Looking back at her 15 years at UCT, first as research fellow from 1986 and later as administrator, Ramphele said it had been "an amazingly exciting time for professional growth — from activist to academic to executive".

But she would not be drawn to comment who her successor would be, except to say she would not leave the university until the vice-chancellor had had sufficient time to find his or her feet.

Acting UCT council chair Tony Farr said the university was under tremendous pressure to find a new vice-chancellor. "We do not have a successor at the moment."

Former president Nelson Mandela has congratulated Ramphele on her appointment — despite his obvious disappointment that she would move to Washington DC, she says.

Ramphele is excited about her new job at the World Bank. "What one did as a student activist now can be done on a global scale," she said. Yet she is also aware the appointment to the "inner cabinet of the World Bank" will bring criticism as the bank's policies have been slammed over the years.

Ramphele said she wants to mobilise more



**Heading out: Mamphele Ramphele is leaving UCT for a job with the World Bank**

resources for human development and find ways in which the bank can strengthen already existing programmes, especially in Africa.

Asked about her future pay packet, Ramphele laughs: "I don't know. I assume they will pay me enough to survive, but I have not spent sleepless nights on it."



SECTION 3  
**Business Times** APPO

**T**HE University of Pretoria (UP) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are joining forces in a partnership that will boost SA's ability to keep up with global developments in science and technology.

The technology-oriented initiative entails the targeting of research funding and teamwork among scientists on key research areas instead of competing for the same contracts, money and research.

For years the two institutions' collaboration has been limited to memorandums of understanding and mainly person-to-person contacts. However, the institutions began to realise that being only 4km apart — separated by a highway and a few leafy suburbs — they would be a lot better off working together.

So when Johan van Zyl, UP's vice-chancellor, and CSIR president and CE Geoff Garrett sat down to talk, they realised they had a similar vision. "We are creating something that doesn't exist in this hemisphere. One plus one will not equal two, but three or five or more," Van Zyl says.

In effect it will mean combining what the university does — tertiary-level teaching and basic research — with contract research and development, leading to spin-off companies, traditionally more the domain of the CSIR.

Garrett and Van Zyl agree that the exact details of their partnership still have to be worked out, but what they are thinking of is a flagship project that will eventually have the muscle of famous institutions such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). MIT is one of the world's top research universities. The US News & World Report's college guidebook published last month ranks it third among national universities in the US, beaten only by the California Institute of Technology and Harvard University.

MIT has forged educational and research collaborations with other universities, governments and companies

# Tuks, CSIR join up to make research pay

ST(BT) 26/9/99 (54)

Collaborative projects set to target national priorities, writes CORNIA PRETORIUS

throughout the world.

Most of its research — 70% — is supported by the US government, but the MIT leads the US in the amount of funding it gets from private industry via commercialising research.

In the first national study of the institution's economic impact, it was found that graduates of MIT have founded 4 000 firms, translating their knowledge into products, services and jobs. These firms in 1994 employed over 1-million people and generated revenues of \$232-billion.

Van Zyl says MIT's spin-off companies and the wealth created highlights the possibilities of UP's partnership with the CSIR. But, he says, this is "not an institutional vision". It is a "Team South Africa" approach to boost innovation in addressing national priorities.

This is in line with the National System of Innovation, which aims at producing

knowledge, technologies, products and processes that will increase business and industry's wealth and improve the quality of life for all members of society.

Rapid changes in SA are forcing institutions such as UP and the CSIR to focus "out there" and look for new opportunities to grow.

Garrett says: "In the dark ages of apartheid we had nobody to compete with, so we competed with each other. SA spends only 0.7% of GDP on research. The resources available for all SA's public and private research and development institutions amount to less than what the top 30 companies in the world spend on research, so we had to begin thinking differently and ask how can we optimise resources and maximise collaboration."

Various policies such as the White Paper on Higher Education and on Science and Tech-

*"In the dark ages of apartheid we had nobody to compete with — so we competed with each other"*



BEYOND THE IVORY TOWER: Johan van Zyl, vice-chancellor at the University of Pretoria

nology encourage stronger links between universities, technicians and science councils.

The CSIR serves more than 7 000 clients in SA every year. Pretoria also has many research and development contracts. So the benefits of stronger links are clear. For example, the CSIR has an income of about R40-million a year from international contract research, and Pretoria has more than R50-million.

Combining forces will mean more money to do things better, attracting and retaining top people — "playing in the big league for big league mon-

ey and big league people", says Garrett.

Initially the two institutions will remain separate, but they will increasingly work together on what they call 25 key areas aimed at SA challenges such as job creation, crime prevention, and integrated rural development.

But the institutions see their partnership as far from exclusive. Van Zyl says where they see they can't work alone, they will bring in a third or a fourth partner. For example Wits, the CSIR and Tuks are all extensively involved in research on mining — "working together for our nation", he says.

# Now Ramphela is taking on the world

Fighting poverty is top priority for UCT vice-chancellor in her new job

ST (AT) 26/9/99 (54)

JANET HEARD

**H**AVING steered the University of Cape Town away from its image as a staid, white institution, Dr Mamphela Ramphele now faces the huge task of helping to overhaul the World Bank.

The UCT vice-chancellor with a reputation as a no-nonsense perfectionist this week announced her decision to move to Washington DC to take up a prestigious job at the World Bank.

Ramphele has been handpicked as one of four managing directors, reporting directly to the bank's president, Jim Wolfensohn.

She will be responsible for education, health and social services — a new human development portfolio created by Wolfensohn as part of his re-

structuring plan to make the bank more user-friendly to developing countries.

A spin-off of the job is that Ramphele will be joining her son, Hlumelo Biko, whose father was the late black consciousness leader Steve Biko. Hlumelo is studying for a masters degree in international relations at Georgetown University. Her younger son, who is in Grade 10 at Bishops, will also relocate to Washington.

During an interview this week, Ramphele, 51, said that in the same way as her decision to transform UCT had been unpopular in certain circles, "so is my decision to take up a job at the World Bank."

"People who view the World Bank as an establishment entity with a bad track record will question my decision."

"However, my view is that countries

such as ours have no choice but to engage with global institutions. If we waited for the World Bank to democratise, and be perfect before we see it as worthy of engaging in it, we would be totally marginalised.

"When I joined UCT [as deputy vice-chancellor in 1991 — she was appointed vice-chancellor three years ago] a lot of people said that it was a waste of time, these white liberals just want to use you. But the fact of the matter is that UCT is a South African institution, it is an African institution... We need to take it on."

"This is one of my strengths — to see the potential in what may not be popularly seen to be the correct thing to do. I will go in and give it my best shot."

While admitting the World Bank has a poor track record of alleviating poverty, she said her personal goal was to "make sure that the World Bank intervention in health, education and social services is designed in a way to promote human development in the most cost-effective and efficient way".

Ramphele is quitting UCT before her five-year term is up, but she has promised she will not leave the institution in the lurch and will wait for a successor to be installed. This could take six months.

Ramphele — who took over the reins from Dr Stuart Saunders three years ago to become the first black and the first woman vice-chancellor in South Africa — said her ideal successor should be a leader who would not embark on a set of innovations, but would consolidate the changes, "oversee the process of alignment in the gentlest possible way, and be able to raise funds".

While remaining tight-lipped about a suitable candidate, she said her successor needed to be "a consolidator, well-connected, have stature and be a good communicator. Someone who is able to see the bigger picture, someone with vision."

Ramphele — who cut her academic teeth as a black consciousness activist and a rural community doctor in the Eastern Cape in the 1970s — said she had long insisted that excellence and equity were non-negotiable goals.

She set out with a vision to promote these goals as a twin strategy and to turn UCT into a world-class university, which meant "exploring the frontiers of knowledge in Africa". Her independent trailblazing manner is one of the reasons Ramphele has been described as

a "visionary academic", always able to see the bigger picture.

Ramphele said the highlight of her term had been laying these foundations of transformation and excellence. A huge restructuring process had been initiated — where degree programmes and academic programmes were overhauled and faculties were reduced.

In the process of making the university leaner and meaner, she had to initiate tasks that put her at loggerheads with certain staff and unions as she trimmed the fat and stood firm during wage negotiations.

"The reorientation and restructuring process was not popular, but it was a process that we agreed to. It meant having to make tough calls and sticking to them."

She said that what helped her get through the tough times, the criticism and the attacks, was the knowledge that, "I did not take on the job because I needed it, but because I felt it was a job that needed to be done — the job of setting up models for higher education".

Names of possible candidates to succeed her are being bandied around thick and fast in academic circles. They include: Ramphele's deputies and deans; Professor Vincent Maphal — currently corporate affairs director of SA Breweries; the vice-chancellor of University of Durban-Westville, Professor Mapule Ramashala; former vice-chancellor of the University of the North, Dr Njabulo Ndebele; and Medical Research Council head William Malekgaburu Makgoba. An outsider tipped for the post is SA-trained physicist Dr Alfred Msezane, currently at Clark Atlanta University.

However, Makgoba, who said he had no interest in the post, suggested that there was no suitable local candidate. Ramphele was a visionary, he said. "She was the best we have," he added, suggesting that the net be cast wider out into the global village — to find a suitable leader "who can take the institution to a higher level".

Transformation occurred in layers, he said. "Every layer has a leader suited to it. Ramphele did a wonderful job laying the foundations. Now it requires a person who can build on these foundations, who can take the institution to a higher level, to Africanise it completely. The candidate would have to also balance the books and raise funds and make it profitable." He added that Ramphele had been his role model since childhood.

## Asmal lays down law for varsities

CORNIA PRETORIUS (54) private security company wounded three students and a lecturer.

ST 26/9/99 Durand recommended that the council terminate the services of vice-chancellor Professor Aaron Ndlovu because the relationship between him and his staff was irreparable.

The memorandum to the Bill said the minister's new powers were aimed at putting an end to "an appalling lack of management capacity" because "the councils and management of these higher education institutions are not complying with their fiduciary responsibilities".

Since the Higher Education Act was passed in late 1997, former Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu ordered three inquiries by independent assessors which led to the removal of three principals.

They were Professor Aubrey Mokadi, the principal of Vaal Triangle Technikon, Professor Alfred Moleah of the University of Transkei and Professor Mbulelo Mzamane of the University of Fort Hare.

Asmal made the move as the council of Mangosuthu Technikon suspended its vice-chancellor this week following an investigation. Asmal sent Jaap Durand to the troubled KwaZulu-Natal institution a month ago to investigate why staff went on a four-week strike and why it ended in an incident in which a

**Matric dance**

# An unequivocal woman heads for Washington

Mamphela Ramphele has been variously described as arrogant and tactless, or an idealist who gets things done, writes Linda Ensor

PHD 27/9/99

**M**AMPHELA Ramphele will take up her post as one of the four MDs of the World Bank next year at a time of fundamental change in direction. Her experience as vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town (UCT), which she has helped to transform, will certainly count as the bank charts its new course.

Ramphele will be key to formulating programmes in health, education and social services which conform with the bank's new emphasis on addressing social issues in an integrated manner.

This is in contrast to past policies which focused — disastrously in Ramphele's view — on macro-economic issues alone. She will be working with three other MDs under bank president Jim Wolfensohn to devise a new development strategy for the bank.

"The focus on human development is very close to my heart and I believe the World Bank's track record — or rather lack of it — is precisely because they have paid very little attention to the human side of development. Development is not just about infrastructure," she says.



**Newsmaker**  
**Mamphela Ramphele**  
World Bank MD

"The other big mistake of the bank was to work only with governments, regardless of their quality, and to declare that in education, the emphasis must be on primary and secondary education, totally disregarding tertiary education." The bank's role, and Ramphele's within it, will no doubt continue to be controversial. But she is no stranger to controversy, and is not swayed by it — once she has made up her mind.

This was clear as she spearheaded the transformation of UCT.

Her critics accuse her of being uncompromising and dismissive of points of view other than her own. Authoritarian, arrogant and ruthless are other characteristics, say academics aggrieved at the way she "bulldozed" the academic transformation programme.

Tactlessness — euphemistically described as a "forceful style" — is another. This manifested itself when she described the university's humanities faculty as dishing up a "dog's breakfast" of courses. Her comment unleashed a flood of vitriolic comment in newspapers.

Then there was the bruising public battle she had with the former director of UCT's Centre for African Studies, Prof Mahmood Mamdani, over the content of the university's foundation programme. Ramphele won and Mamdani left to head the African Studies department at Columbia University in the US.

Defending herself, Ramphele says the criticisms are not altogether fair, though understandable in the circumstances.

"I am tough and I can be uncompromising if I believe I am right and everyone else is wrong. Obviously this must give people the impres-

sion that I am ruthless. I am not ruthless. I am not doing the jobs I do for the money or status. I do them because I am an idealist and have a passion for making a contribution to the development of this country, this continent and now, the global community. This makes me very focused."

Ramphele ... tough and focused

Ramphele's future home in Washington is "a distance far travelled" from her birthplace in Mafikeng in the foothills of the Soutpansberg in the Northern Province.

It was there the foundations of her character were laid. Her parents, both teachers, prized education and reading and encouraged their highly intelligent daughter to strive for achievement. The discipline, which prevailed taught the young girl invaluable lessons in time, management, organisation and responsibility which she puts to use to this day.

Being a doctor also requires a sense of responsibility and accountability, says Ramphele. It does not allow for repeated disasters — something the developing world has had too many of at the hands of the World Bank.

# Graduate makes history at UWC

ERIC NTABAZAULA (54)

THE University of the Western Cape (UWC) has produced its first black graduate in chemistry — Felismino Tocoli from Mozambique.

The university held its graduation ceremony on September 22 and 23.

UWC spokesperson Kay Jaffer said although Tocoli was not South African, the university was proud of his achievement.

"Science has not been the domain of black people because of their disadvantages in education," she said.

"It is encouraging to have black people coming out competitively against their white counterparts. The university hopes it will continue to produce graduates in science."

Writing in the latest edition of the university's newsletter, *On Campus*, the head of public affairs at UWC, Richard Stevens, said: "Our business is excellence and more growth."

"How we perceive this within UWC might be a matter of individual choice and preference."

Full list page 7  
ET 27/9/99

# Graca new UCT chancellor

(74)

TREVOR OOSTERWYK  
STAFF REPORTER

APR 28/9/99

Graca Machel, wife of Nelson Mandela and the country's former first lady, has been elected chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

She will hold office until 2008.

The university's electoral college met on Saturday to find a replacement for Harry Oppenheimer, who was chancellor from 1967 to 1996. The post has been vacant for the past three years.

The college is made up of members elected by graduates, members of the aca-

demic staff, members of the administration and support staff, students, the president of convocation and the vice-chancellor.

Mrs Machel will be the ceremonial head of the university, and will confer degrees in the name of the university.

She will also speak for and represent the university, but will have no decision-making or executive role.

The executive head of the university is the vice-chancellor, Mamphela Ramphele, who announced last week that she would leave next year for a post with the World Bank in Washington.

# UCT's new chancellor

## 'an ideal role model' (54)

CT 29/9/99

**PRISCILLA SINGH**  
EDUCATION WRITER

GRAÇA Machel's appointment and acceptance as the new chancellor of the University of Cape Town has been hailed by outgoing vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphele, who described her as the "ideal role model for UCT".

Machel will take up the reins at the end of the year as UCT's fifth chancellor and the first woman and first black person to hold this position in the university's 170-year history. This mirrors Ramphele's appointment as vice-chancellor in 1996.

Machel, wife of former president Nelson Mandela, was yesterday on her way back from the US, where she received an award from Africare. As the titular head of UCT, Machel will confer degrees in its name.

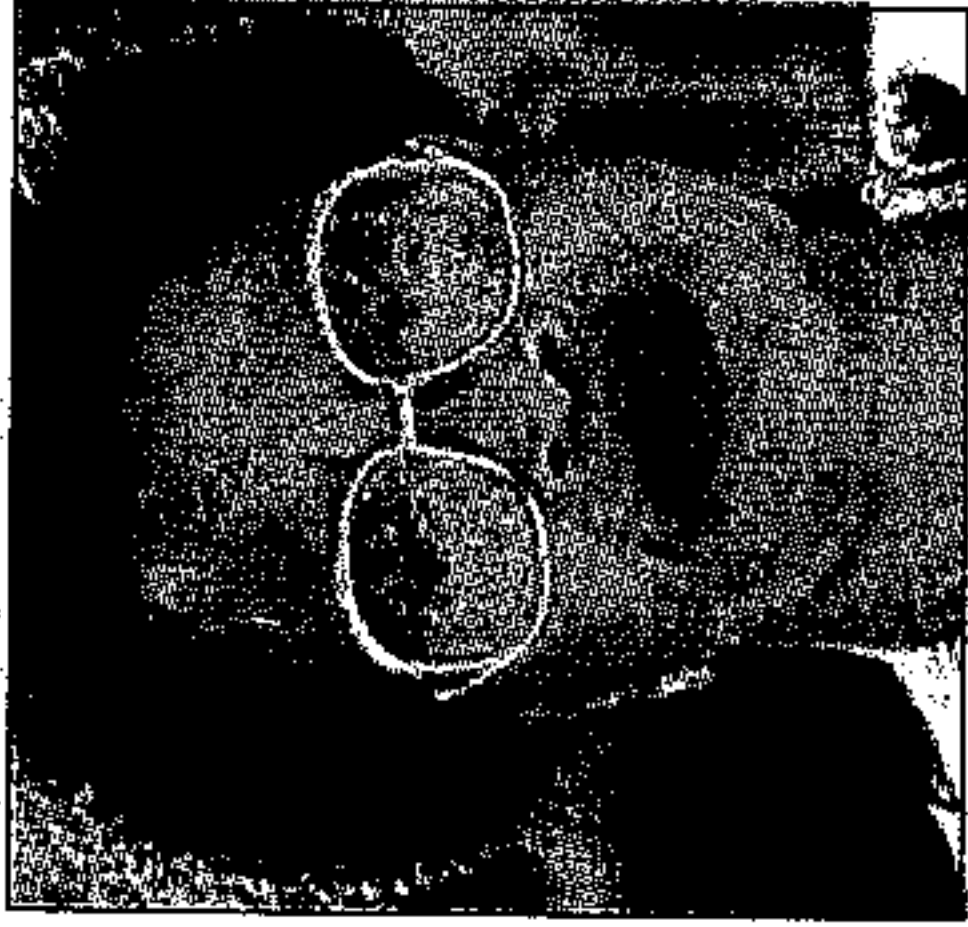
UCT has been without a chan-

Ramphele said yesterday that Machel had provided inspired leadership on all levels, including in Mozambique, South Africa and internationally for many years. She had been minister of education and culture in Mozambique.

"In addition to her contribution to the struggle for independence in Mozambique, she was instrumental in transforming the education system in that country. Her work for international agencies also reflects her deep concern for youth development," she said.

UCT's electoral college elected Machel on September 18 and she accepted the nomination while she was out of the country.

Several months previously, the University of Fort Hare had approached Machel for acceptance of a nomination as chancellor for the Eastern Cape institution. She



**INSPIRED:** New UCT chancellor Graca Machel.

declined because she had already accepted the position at UCT.

Fort Hare's acting registrar, Alan Shaw, said his institution wished Machel everything of the best in her role at UCT. He said that any perceptions created of Machel choosing a historically white university over a historically black university were as a result of misreporting in the media. <sup>37</sup>

"Her name had been submitted by an internal structure, and when we asked her, she declined as she had already accepted UCT's earlier offer," Shaw said.

# Disciplinary hearing for Univen SRC

By Makhudu Sefara

THE University of Venda has summoned the entire Student Representative Council (SRC) to appear before a disciplinary committee on charges of conspiracy to loot money from the student body coffers.

University spokesman Mbangiseni Masia confirmed this yesterday. He said this followed the suspension of three SRC members on charges of misusing SRC funds during a freshers' ball earlier this year.

The SRC had earlier suspended three officials and handed them to management for disciplinary measures.

SRC general secretary Mr Pule Radingoana, who is also Azanian Student's Convention (Azasco) national secretary, said yesterday that it was surprising that the SRC, which was the complainant against some of its members, could now be treated as suspects.

"We are perturbed by this development and suspect foul play. Our SRC has been proactive and fair in dealing with matters affecting student funds."

"Those who did wrong have been suspended. We see the recent development as a political ploy to destabilise the SRC. For the past three years the SRC here has been dominated and at times wholly led by Azasco and this has not gone down well with management."

"For the management and disciplinary commission to change us from the complainant to the accused without any reasonable justification is surprising," said Radingoana.

A member of Azasco who requested anonymity said yesterday: "We suspect that the university management just wants to ensure that some of our comrades who would be vying for positions during the upcoming SRC elections are frustrated."

"Over the years management has adopted an attitude of dirty tricks in dealing with Azasco members and we suspect that some of our candidates could be barred from contesting the elections," he said.

Masia said a university investigation found that all SRC members were directly or indirectly involved.

Sowetan 1/10/99

## UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

### WHEN PM 1/10/99 RAMPHELE GOES Changing of the guard (54)

The announcement last week that University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Dr Mamphele Ramphele is leaving for a senior position with the World Bank in Washington came as a shock to many in education. As head of one of SA's most esteemed universities, a confidante of the late Steve Biko and a staunch advocate of transformation, Ramphele was a kingpin in the new SA.

Her mission of turning UCT into "a world-class African university" seemed sufficient reason for her to keep her hand on the wheel for several more years, but, as she says, the World Bank post is "the opportunity of a lifetime".

As one of four managing directors, she will be responsible for human development in education, health and social services. It is a new post and the first time a

black woman will hold such a senior position at the bank.

UCT must find a replacement at a time when the transformation process she spearheaded is encountering resistance from academics and workers.

Ramphele leaves some time in the middle of next year; she says she will stay as long as is necessary to ensure a smooth transition. She will have little involvement in selecting a successor and the university's Council says it has no one in mind.

There are a few obvious possibilities, though. Key among them is former University of the North vice-chancellor Njabulo Ndebele, who is Scholar-in-Residence at the Ford Foundation, New York, where he is completing a novel. Ndebele will join UCT's Department of English Language & Literature next April. UCT's Dean of Humanities, Prof Wilmot James — himself a possible candidate — describes Ndebele as "one of SA's most accomplished writers, an outstanding literary critic and an internationally recognised intellectual".

Ndebele was the front-runner to head

Former Cabinet Minister and ANC backbencher Pallo Jordan would be the maverick's choice, but he is "not applying, not interested and not in the running".

That leaves the race wide open. UCT this week announced that Graça Machel has accepted the (ceremonial) post of chancellor of the university, succeeding Harry Oppenheimer.

## Current Affairs

Wits University in 1996 before a poor interview performance ruined his chances. He was subsequently embroiled in a row over a R20m payment to Edupark, a private company, that was allegedly not authorised by Turloop's Council.

A strong contender would be UCT economics professor Francis Wilson, who co-authored *Uprooting Poverty: The South African Challenge with Ramphela*. He lost the race to become Wits' new vice-chancellor to Prof Colin Bundy and many will be disappointed at his decision not to stand.

Medical Research Council president Malegapuru Makgoba falls about laughing at the thought of applying. "I am neither suicidal nor mad," he hoots.

UCT's Department of English Language & Literature next April. UCT's Dean of Humanities, Prof Wilmot James — himself a possible candidate — describes Ndebele as "one of SA's most accomplished writers, an outstanding literary critic and an internationally recognised intellectual".

## Current Affairs

black woman will hold such a senior position at the bank.

UCT must find a replacement at a time when the transformation process she spearheaded is encountering resistance from academics and workers.

Ramphele leaves some time in the middle of next year; she says she will stay as long as is necessary to ensure a smooth transition. She will have little involvement in selecting a successor and the university's Council says it has no one in mind.

There are a few obvious possibilities, though. Key among them is former University of the North vice-chancellor Njabulo Ndebele, who is Scholar-in-Residence at the Ford Foundation, New York, where he is completing a novel. Ndebele will join UCT's Department of English Language & Literature next April. UCT's Dean of Humanities, Prof Wilmot James — himself a possible candidate — describes Ndebele as "one of SA's most accomplished writers, an outstanding literary critic and an internationally recognised intellectual".

Ndebele was the front-runner to head

Former Cabinet Minister and ANC backbencher Pallo Jordan would be the maverick's choice, but he is "not applying, not interested and not in the running".

That leaves the race wide open. UCT this week announced that Graça Machel has accepted the (ceremonial) post of chancellor of the university, succeeding Harry Oppenheimer.

# Tuks is a bastion of white privilege — finding

(54) Sowetan 1/10/99

They alleged that the clubroom facilities in a residence block called Boekebhout — where there are 25 per cent black students and 75 per cent whites — are used predominantly by white students and black students are sworn at when they try to make use of the facilities, including the television.

The students recalled a case involving a black student, Ricardo Luthuli, who had his room saturated with water after refusing to take part in the first year initiation tradition. They said the matter was reported but no action was taken.

First year black students are also allegedly compelled to attend a Christian church and those who refuse are punished.

They said that in other residences, blacks are allocated rooms in one wing

The residence Sonor was alleged to be exclusively for white students while the commission found that the allocation of rooms in residences was decentralised and done by members of the house committees.

With regard to the faculty of law the commission received information that the quality of English-medium lectures for black students was inferior to that of the Afrikaans-medium white students.

This discrimination took the form of poor lecture facilities, allocation of junior staff members for courses taken by black students, bad timetable planning, poor study advice for black students and poor command of English language by lecturers — all of which led to poor results.

Head of the department of public

Law Professor Van Ooster denied the allegations and demanded a withdrawal of the statements and an apology.

In the faculty of engineering it was alleged a lecturer, Anton de Klerk, favoured assisting white students.

In accepting the commission's findings, the South African Student Congress general secretary Cassius Ndlovu said the commission's findings were a true reflection of the situation but said there were still outstanding issues. It was disturbing, he said, to find the majority of students allocated places in residences were white, even though most had cars.

Student guidance representative Lucky Phekisho said the worst perpetrators of discrimination were the people who were supposed to implement the policies of management.

He said they overlooked black student problems and chased them away: "We're still far from having a non-racial institution here," Phekisho said.

Tuks media liaison officer Mr Leon Radamer said: "The report is not a true reflection of the situation. In the case of human rights abuses, administrative and other channels have been open for years."

# Asmal to crack down on fly-by-night 'colleges'

## Private tertiary institutions given January deadline to seek registration under tough new conditions

CLIVE SAWYER  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Senior Department of Education lawyers are urgently drafting regulations to prevent fly-by-night "colleges" abusing the terms university and technikon, while a new year crackdown on unregistered private higher education institutions is planned.

A January deadline for all private higher educational institutions to apply for official registration, dependent on proof they are financially

sound and offer courses of sufficiently high standard, could see authorities better equipped to crack down on bogus colleges.

The regulations will be put into force under the 1997 Higher Education Act, which was aimed in part at ending exploitation of job-seekers eager to improve their education and susceptible to the lures of private colleges.

The act requires that institutions may offer higher education only after they have been registered officially.

To be eligible for registration, an applicant has to prove the college is

financially capable of satisfying its obligations to prospective students, will maintain educational standards "not inferior" to those of comparable institutions, and comply with quality assurance standards.

The applicant must also comply with "any other reasonable requirement" set by the registrar of private higher educational institutions.

As a further protection, the act allows "any person" to inspect the registrar of private higher education institutions and the auditor's report which the act requires the institution to keep.

At the time the act was passed by the National Assembly, the then Education Minister, Sibusiso Bengu, noted that the numbers of such private higher education institutions were on the increase.

"While my ministry recognises the role this component is playing in the provision of higher education, we are concerned that a regulatory framework is urgently needed to ensure these institutions meet the quality requirements of the system."

Speaking shortly after his inspection tour of educational institutions this

year, Mr Bengu's successor, Kader Asmal, promised an "urgent review" of the criteria and procedures for registration in terms of the 1997 act.

"I will also seek international advice on the management of the private, corporate and 'borderless' higher education phenomenon, and its relationship to strategic human resource development planning," Mr Asmal said.

Among Mr Asmal's concerns is understood to be the entry of foreign universities into the SA market, to ensure the qualifications they offer are of sufficiently high quality and useful

operators could attempt to exploit the market.

The Department of Education legal adviser, Eben Boshoff, said higher educational institutions had been given until January to apply for registration, after which it would be a crime to offer higher education if unregistered.

Streamlining of the registration process was also being considered.

No amendment to the 1997 act was contemplated but he confirmed that the new regulations could preclude unauthorised use of the terms "university" and "technikon".

selling-points on the CVs of job-seekers.

There has been a notable rise in the number of master of business administration qualifications on offer, because of hugely increased demand for business qualifications after post-apartheid South Africa entered the global market.

Bheki Khumalo, Mr Asmal's spokesman, said this week that the department intended "tightening the screws" for the registration of educational institutions, particularly because of concerns that fly-by-night

## Varsity expansion worries officials

EDWIN MANDU

AREAS CORRESPONDENT

ARLT 5/10/99

The education department is concerned about the increasing number of universities offering certificates and degrees by correspondence, or setting up satellite campuses.

The Universities of Potchefstroom and of Stellenbosch are offering degrees by correspondence, and the University of Pretoria is building a campus in Illovo, Sandton, which is set to challenge the University of Witwatersrand Business School.

The department fears this could affect institutions, such as the University of South Africa (Unisa) and Technikon South Africa, dedicated to study by correspondence, whose traditional student market was being eroded.

A department spokesman cautioned that the long-term future of individual institutions and their restructuring should be determined by national policy, and not by the vagaries of the market and competitive pressures.

# Asmal moves to mend mismanaged campuses

(54) DD 7/10/99

Appointing interim caretakers at troubled universities and technikons has become a trend, writes Primarashni Pillay

EDMUND Zingu, a deputy vice-chancellor of Mangosuthu Technikon, was recently appointed as an interim caretaker at the troubled institution.

His task is to stabilise the campus with the help of a committee. The university council sent vice-chancellor Aaron Ndlovu on three months' leave.

Education Minister Kader Asmal recently appointed independent assessor Jaap Durand to investigate campus problems.

Durand reported that Ndlovu was involved in nepotism and his management style was autocratic. The Durand report recommended the council dismiss Ndlovu. The council sought legal opinion which said that nothing in the report suggested Ndlovu was guilty of misconduct.

Over the past two years, the education ministry has appointed independent assessors to investigate problems at historically black institutions that are wracked by financial crises, mismanagement, maladministration and political problems.

Vice-chancellors were either suspended or dismissed following recommendations by independent assessors. Interim CEOs were appointed.

Meanwhile, Asmal has initiated moves to amend legislation so that he can appoint administrators to run campuses if he believes, based on audits or assessors' reports, their managements or councils are not performing their functions.

A departmental official said: "This is because university and technikon managements are working with public money and its the ministry's responsibility to ensure that things are going smoothly. It shows an urgent approach to resolve an issue."

Other caretaker managers include Derrick Swartz, who is approaching the end of his six-

month term at Fort Hare University, which was on the brink of financial collapse.

The executive committee of the university council appointed Swartz after independent assessor Stuart Saunders recommended the contract of then-principal Mbulelo Mzamane should not be renewed. Saunders reported Mzamane lacked fiscal discipline and efficient financial systems were lacking.

Another interim manager is Theodore Shippey, retired Cape Technikon rector, who was appointed last year by former education minister Sibusiso Bengu to investigate problems at Vaal Triangle Technikon in line with recommendations by Durand.

The campus has been beset by problems since the suspension of former rector Aubrey Mokadi in 1997. The council dismissed him last November on grounds of misconduct.

Joe Tefo of the University of the North says the amended legislation would give Asmal legal grounds to protect the taxpayer. "I'm very much in support of this as academic freedom must not be confused with institutional freedom."

Tefo says that the amendment would be good if used judiciously. Referring to the appointment of interim managers at institutions, Tefo says it is clear that "at black institutions the wrong people were appointed for the right jobs".

Government had "rewarded the wrong people with vice-chancellorships and the boots were too big for them". He sees interim managers as transitory.

For Siphso Seepe of Vista University, the appointment of interim managers is a short-term solution "and it will work. It is a temporary measure and it will bring stability."

Seepe says investigations by

independent assessors into troubled institutions have to be rigorous and there should be guidelines.

An education department official stresses that higher education legislation sets out the criteria for the basis of investigations as well as the functions of the assessor.

However, Seepe argues that "independent assessors are often white and they have no understanding of the challenges of black universities."

"It is easy for them to accuse a black principal of not having financial control when black universities are disadvantaged. It's difficult for a black university principal to refuse students entry because they don't have the required finances," says Seepe.

But Tefo welcomes the appointment of assessors.

"It is a good thing assessors are being appointed. Corruption knows no colour. To say that one should look for a black person to assess problems at a black institution could mean that a black person should condone mismanagement and promote cabals and gangsters."

He asserts that independent assessor should have skills and expertise.

"They should be retired professors and academics who have their futures behind them and no aspirations."

Seepe argues that before Asmal intervenes there must be "sufficient conditions or a framework" so that all institutions get the same treatment.

He refers to Wits University students who threatened to boycott classes several years ago if William Makgoba was not appointed principal.

Seepe calls for equal conditions and treatment of institutions when it comes to government intervention.

## Vice-chancellor's fate is considered

DD 7/10/99 (54)  
Primarashni Pillay

NO ACADEMIC work is expected at Mangosuthu Technikon in Umlazi township in Durban today because the technikon council and unions are meeting to discuss a report on vice-chancellor Aaron Ndlovu.

Ndlovu has been sent on three months' leave after a recommendation by independent assessor Jaap Durand that he be dismissed. Durand was appointed by Education Minister Kader Asmal to investigate problems on campus. Durand's report alleged Ndlovu was autocratic and accused him of nepotism.

The council could not dismiss Ndlovu as there was no evidence that he was guilty of misconduct, said a senior member of management, who asked not to be named. On Tuesday lectures were disrupted when staff and students protested against the council's inability to dismiss Ndlovu.

"Today's meeting will aim to discuss the way forward and ways of reconciling staff," the manager said. He emphasised that staff and students were adamant that Ndlovu must be dismissed. "Peace and stability will return to the campus only if Ndlovu goes."

Meanwhile, lectures at Zululand University are expected to resume today after a month of student boycotts. Asmal met students on Tuesday and they agreed in principle to return to classes today, said university spokesman Carl de Villiers.

Trouble started at the university when musicians failed to turn up for a beauty pageant on campus. Violence erupted and some students were injured. Damage to campus property was estimated at R100 000.

Students accused the campus security members of initiating the trouble and called for their suspension.

Asmal called this week for an independent investigation of the incident.



# Working people jump at chance of varsity study

## UWC rewards employment experience

LENORE OLIVER

Cape Townians who never made it to matric are beginning to graduate from university and even earning honours degrees - like Pearl Ruiters who left school in Standard 8.

Although she worked her way up to become area manager for a well-known food company, Mrs Ruiters, 33, of Lotus River, thought her lack of schooling would forever limit her prospects in the business world.

Forced to leave Westridge High School to bring money into the home, Mrs Ruiters managed to rise to a management position 10 years ago in spite of her limited education.

But this mother of two knew she was capable of more and when her husband Bradley saw an advertisement which offered university study to people without the required matriculation exemption, she jumped at the chance.

Now three years later, she is the proud owner of a B.Com honours degree in human resource management from the University of the Western Cape.

Mrs Ruiters was one of the first in 1997 to enrol in the university's programme to cater for people with practical experience in their fields who show potential to assume positions of responsibility.

UWC gives them the chance to acquire university qualifications without matric exemption. The programme is run in the faculty of economic and management sciences, which includes the departments of accounting, economics, industrial psychology, political studies, public administration and the School of Government.

The university is offering two streams in



DEGREED: Pearl Ruiters took honours

the management development programme, six streams for the post-graduate diploma in management and six streams for the B.Com honours degree.

The programme was an attempt to recognise the "invaluable understanding" developed through practical employment experience, said UWC spokeswoman Kay Jaffer.

"Our programmes recognise that experienced managers and graduates from diverse disciplines are keen to develop the professional skills required to succeed as managers and leaders.

"We recognise that school subject choices and limited access to tertiary education may be preventing people from exploiting changing career prospects in management or business," Ms Jaffer said.

Admissions are based primarily on the university's assessment of whether applicants have the skills to succeed in the programme rather than formal educational background.

"We recognise the value of skills and learning gained through appropriate work experience," said Ms Jaffer.

"On completion of your honours studies the person should be well-positioned with the background for a career in middle management," she said.

The department of management also offers the BA honours degree in sport and recreation management.

The courses are offered through evening classes or eight one-week full-time blocks, or a combination of evening classes and full-time blocks.

Armed with her new degree, Mrs Ruiters is now a human resources practitioner with insurance giant Sanlam.

"I am very happy about my new degree and it has certainly given me a lift. People treat me with a lot more respect."

But she admits that in the beginning it was difficult juggling her job, her home life and her after-hours studies.

"The 36 months and R9 500 I spent working towards my degree has really made it all worth it. My husband played both mother and father," she said.

## UCT mourns death of distinguished scientist

JEAN LE MAY

One of South Africa's most distinguished scientists, deputy vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town John Martin, 62, died in Cape Town this week after a long illness.

The National Research Foundation last year described Professor Martin, an A-rated scientist, as the world leader in the field of computational and applied mechanics. He was chairman of the Council for Nuclear Safety from 1986 until his death. Vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphele

said: "UCT deeply mourns a most distinguished member of the university.

"John was a world-renowned scholar and researcher in his field. He was a wonderful human being whose wisdom, humanity and insight have been of inestimable value to us all."

Nic Marais, chairman of the Academic Staff Association, said "not only was he a world-famous scientist but he was an enormous help to all of us at the university. Only last week he produced a salary schedule which will make an enormous difference."

Professor Martin obtained a BSc in civil engineering at the University of Natal and continued his studies at Cambridge, obtaining his PhD in 1962. He spent 10 years in the engineering division of Brown University in the United States before taking up the corporation chair of civil engineering at UCT in 1973.

He became dean of engineering in 1983 and a deputy vice-chancellor in 1996.

Professor Martin leaves his wife, Jill, and three children. The funeral will be in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, at 5.30pm on Tuesday.

# Dramatic rise in number of black (74) students

CORNIA PRETORIUS

ST 17/10/99

THE number of African students at universities and technikons has grown by 141 000 or 74 per cent, while white student enrolments have fallen by 60 000 or 27 per cent between 1993 and 1999, a campus diversity audit has found.

But lecturers remain predominantly male and white. African academics are still under-represented, with only a slight increase in numbers — from seven per cent to 12 per cent at universities and from two to 14 per cent at technikons.

The audit, by the Centre for Higher Education Transformation, found that the growth in African students hasn't been even across institutions.

African enrolments at historically disadvantaged universities fell by 7 000 (nine per cent), but rose by 22 000 (140 per cent) at similar technikons.

Enrolments at former Afrikaans universities grew by 56 000 (1 117 per cent) and by 10 000 (94 per cent) at English universities from 1993 to 1999.

The number of African students enrolling at Unisa fell by 6 000 (11 per cent), but at Technikon SA, it rose by 28 000.

Many African students were still enrolling in distance education programmes within former white universities.

Staff changes are limited, with more than 90 per cent still white, especially at Afrikaans institutions where black academics make up less than three per cent. At English universities, the number of African academics has gone from four per cent to seven per cent since 1993.

The number of African academics at traditionally black technikons rose from 17 per cent to 49 per cent, while at white institutions ratios went from one to six per cent.

According to the audit the increased diversity has affected student life and politics.

There has been a dramatic decline in the membership and activities of political groups.

Said one researcher: "Student politics have collapsed or lost direction". There was "a virtual absence of debate on most campuses".

# Vista top brass face corruption probe

M+G 22-28/10/99 (54)

## Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

The deputy vice-chancellor at Vista University, Professor Kingston Nyamapfene, has been accused of running a private education business from the institution, using its resources.

CompuVista, a computer literacy business, allegedly uses Vista's Bloemfontein computers, facilities and lecturers.

This accusation is one of several allegations of corruption contained in a report compiled by a high-powered Vista transformation forum made up of campus principals, student organisations, staffers and unions, asking the university council to launch an investigation.

The council has agreed to set up a commission of inquiry, but it has not been appointed.

Vista National Transformation Forum (NTF) claims Nyamapfene collaborated with the former head of Vista's computer science department, S Haupt, to run the business on campus.

CompuVista is also operating at Thaba Nchu College of Education in Bloemfontein. An official at Thaba Nchu college said CompuVista courses were accredited by Vista University and the staff members were qualified lecturers from Vista's Bloemfontein campus.

However, the Bloemfontein campus denied involvement with Thaba Nchu college, saying CompuVista used to operate at the Bloemfontein campus premises, but was shut earlier last year — according to staff, after it emerged that the university was not benefiting financially from the business.

At Thaba Nchu College, CompuVista co-ordinator José Chittlabilly said students were paying R600 for four modules and the certificates issued were signed by a Lomond de Jager, who was working for Vista. The Bloemfontein campus denied this, saying it had never heard of De Jager.

The NTF is not impressed. "A plethora of questions have not been answered about these courses. When did senate and council approve of such courses; the syllabi, credit ratings, fee structure and so on?" reads the report.

"Should we allow a privately run organisation to use university facilities without any pre-agreed payments? To what extent are these short courses in competition with our CI100, an approved university [computer] course? Who is benefiting financially, and how much?"

The *Mail & Guardian* sent some questions, including "Did the univer-

sity benefit from CompuVista?", to Vista's Bloemfontein campus principal, TG Schultz. He replied that since some of the information requested "is only available from our central campus, Pretoria, I am unable to adequately respond to all your inquiries. I have, therefore, provided a brief to the vice-chancellor, Professor [Hugh] Africa, and requested him to respond completely on the university's behalf."

However, Vista representative Karl Smith said the university is not prepared to comment as the matter is being investigated internally.

The terms of reference for the commission of inquiry were leaked to the *M&G*. It will "investigate allegations that the management is autocratic and arrogant and its [management] style is based on personal whims, patronage and personal vendetta. The management style has caused serious deterioration in the entire administration of the university and lack of accountability and discipline."

The probe will also focus on Africa, who joined Vista University in 1996. According to the documents, Africa "has built a luxury private bathroom attached to his office".

Furthermore, Africa promoted the secretary to the registrar (administration), S Carstens, to be his assistant and gave her a salary hike from R100 000 to R250 000 per annum.

The transformation report also said: "Professor Africa was asked about this appointment during [an] NTF and management meeting on March 6 1998. The best he could say was that he has the prerogative from the University Act to appoint whomever he fancies, and at whatever salary scale."

What also emerges from the report is that Vista University is "a consultants' paradise".

"We are utterly horrified," says the report, "at the new levels of extreme [sic] the new management has taken the appointment of consultants/agencies and the extent to which they appear to have bizarre 'personnel policy' of disempowering employees in order to appoint over-priced consultants/agencies."

The report also claims that the transformation forum, unions, affected departments and employees are not consulted when the management appoints consultants.

"The Vista council is ultimately responsible for all appointments and, therefore, we need to appeal to council members to investigate such appointments as a matter of extreme urgency," reads the report. "At the same time, serious consideration must be given to referring these cases to the public protector, the Heath special investigation unit and the Office for Serious Economic Offences for investigation."

The NTF questioned the appointment of Danie Kok as executive director of the Vista Foundation, which raises funds for the university.

"As a consultant," the forum said, "Danie Kok reportedly gets an astronomical retainer of R35 000 per month from Vista coffers with a guaranteed 10% increase per annum until the year 2003."

Kok, whom the forum claims has a "long-standing personal relationship" with Africa, "allegedly simultaneously works for two other institutions and Vista apparently pays for his plush offices in an exclusive Sandton office block, his expensive furnishings and a rapidly increasing staff complement, which includes, would you believe, his wife."

"Despite the fact that he [Kok] would, therefore, have to bring in enormous sums of money just for Vista to break even on his expenses, in the two and a half years he has been associated with Vista University, he has failed to raise any substantial funds and much of what he has raised are donations that were made on a regular basis to the university long before Kok arrived on the scene."

The report also claims that "about R480 000 was spent in July 1998 on the so-called Inter-Vista Games in Durban".

This, according to the report, "happened, we were told in an NTF meeting on August 25 1998, even though our executive management was aware that there would be no real games played in Durban. In effect, the money was spent on what some students call a 'jol' to relieve examination stress."

Finally, the report claims that R1-million was spent on the inauguration of Vista's chancellor and Africa.

**Room and telephone  
bugging devices,  
debugging services,  
hidden cameras & more.**



**spy shop**

The world of 007

**We sell and install  
CCTV"**

**PHONE THE FOLLOWING**

<b>BRUMA</b> .....	<b>TEL: (011) 622-3093</b>
<b>RANDBURG</b> .....	<b>TEL: (011) 886-0073</b>
<b>PRETORIA</b> .....	<b>TEL: (012) 323-6292</b>
<b>DURBAN</b> .....	<b>TEL: (031) 265-0356</b>
<b>CAPE TOWN</b> .....	<b>TEL: (021) 23-5140</b>

**Website: www.spysshop.co.za**

# Dramatic drop in student numbers hits universities

Closure looms for some if 'worrying' trend continues

LINDA VERGMAN  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

University and technikon officials are battling to reverse a dramatic 7% decline in student numbers across the tertiary sector from 605 000 students last year to a draft figure of 564 000 in June this year.

The decline of 41 000 students has both puzzled and worried education analysts. Among factors believed to be behind the decline are a dwindling pool of suitably qualified matriculants, inability of poorer students to afford fees and competition from aggressively-marketed foreign and private higher education providers.

Ahmed Essop, chief director for higher education of the Education Department, admitted the figures were "worrying". If the trend continued it could aggravate the shortage of highly skilled professionals.

"It has major implications for a range of institutions, particularly the black universities, whose enrolments are declining to a point where they may not be sustainable if they are not able to turn them around."

The 36 public technikons and universities had planned to increase enrolments to around 630 000 students this year, according to the Department of Education's Draft Higher Education Planning Statistics for 1998 to 1999. The document predicts that if the decline continues there will be a further loss of 27 000 students from universities and technikons in the year 2000.

The statistics were distributed to the country's tertiary institutions in July by the department to assist them with future planning, but have only just been released to the press.

The department has asked institutions to suggest what factors lie behind

the losses and to take steps to try to peg enrolments at the 1999 level.

The statistics are stark. They show that already dwindling white student numbers have declined further by 16 000 over the past year while black student numbers have dropped by 20 000.

The biggest losses have been at historically black universities, especially the University of Fort Hare (32% fewer students than 1998), University of Transkei (25% fewer students) Medical University of South Africa (a 22% decline) and the University of Western Cape (a 20% decline).

Whereas previously students appeared to be migrating from universities to technikons, both sectors now show plummeting enrolments.

The overall headcount at universities decreased by 6% from 397 000 in 1998 to 372 000 in 1999, while the headcount at technikons declined by 8% from 208 000 in 1998 to 192 000 this year. This contrasts with a 17% growth in universities and a 56% growth in technikon student numbers between 1993 and 1998.

Mr Essop said the reasons for the overall decline in student numbers were complex. He admits: "We don't have a full handle on what is going on."

He said the decline in numbers at certain black institutions, like the University of the North, which decreased from a high of 13 868 students in 1995 to 7 990 this year, was "not necessarily a bad thing", as they were not built to accommodate so many students.

But if the decline continued at smaller institutions like Fort Hare "there will be problems ... I don't want to be alarmist".

"We are not planning to close anybody down, but by virtue of the numbers they will not be sustainable."

Mr Essop said among reasons for the decline was that not enough qualified matriculants were being produced by the schools. Another problem was the increasing student dropout rate. Mr Essop said this was due to institutions' taking a much stricter line with students who were unable to pay fees or who did not succeed academically.

He conceded competition from more than 200 private higher education providers could be a contributing factor. Mr Essop said anecdotal evidence suggested many white students were either emigrating or taking private courses.

The continuing drop in white student numbers was causing concern because they formed the "solid fee-paying base" for many public institutions.

Unless schools began producing more matriculants or universities introduced more flexible entry requirements for mature learners, the tertiary system was not going to grow.

Mr Essop said because subsidies were calculated on the basis of student enrolments two years previously, the financial impact of the declining student population would not be felt until 2001.

At the University of the Western Cape, student enrolments declined from 11 467 in 1999 to around 8 729 in June this year. However Professor Ikey van de Rheede, vice-rector student affairs at UWC, said with second semester enrolments, they had now increased to around 9 500.

He maintained the university was aggressively addressing the problem with a new enrolment management plan, which was looking not only at recruitment but at retention.

A survey of students, who had not returned to complete their studies at UWC, showed that 96% left for finan-

cial reasons. Professor Van De Rheede said: "Quite clearly one of the major reasons for the decline is finance. People are not in a position any more to afford higher education."

UWC was allocated R20-million by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme but this was insufficient to meet student needs.

Among other reasons cited for the decline by Professor Van de Rheede was the "collapse of the school system" which was producing fewer Grade 12 pupils with matric exemptions - which was needed if a pupil was going to enter university.

Professor Van De Rheede said the university was considering introducing a more flexible admissions policy to enable matriculants without exemption to enrol.

Both the universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch are among the few tertiary institutions nationally to have increased their enrolments in the past year. Professor Van de Rheede believed with the stigma of Afrikaans universities gone, Stellenbosch was attracting Afrikaans-speaking students from UWC.

Hardest hit has been the bankrupt University of Fort Hare where enrolments dropped from a high of 5 208 in 1995 to just 3 318 this year.

Alan Shaw, acting registrar of Fort Hare, said the university was embarking on a major restructuring to capitalise on its strengths. He believed a major reason for the decline was the university's insistence that students pay all their outstanding tuition debts plus a minimum deposit before they could reregister. Previously many students made only token deposits.

Mr Shaw said the university did its utmost to assist needy students get loans or grants.

(54)

ARL 25/10/99

# University staff want 'overpaid' vice-chancellor out

(54)

Primarashni Pillay

A DELEGATION from the University of the North has handed a petition to the education ministry, demanding the dismissal of vice-chancellor Biki Minyuku and Benny Boshieho, university council chairman.

A source said university staff were objecting to Minyuku's salary package, which is believed to be about R1.4m.

Minyuku's salary package was currently being investigated by the Health special investigating unit and processes that led to his appointment as vice-chancellor were being investigated by the public protector's office, the source said.

Staff have argued Minyuku's salary package was "draining university coffers" and this was the source of trouble on campus, according to the source.

Staff have also alleged that Minyuku and Boshieho had appointed people to executive positions without following procedures.

A case in point was the appointment of an academic to an executive position, without university structures being involved and no public lecture being given by the individual. The individual is expected to start

work at the university on November 1, the source said. Staff are calling for the dismissal of Boshieho on the grounds that he lacked credentials for the job.

"He was the secretary-general for the African National Congress in the Northern Province and former transport MEC. He does not have academic credentials," the source said.

The source said staff believed Minyuku did not deserve the title of professor, as apparently he was not a

published academic.

Furthermore, some student organisations and academics have withdrawn from the university's broad transformation forum, the source said, "because it was one-dimensional - Minyuku dictates". The National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union will hold a university assembly between staff and students today to discuss Minyuku's fate. University of the North officials were not available for comment.

20 28/10/99

## F State Tech talks aim at higher status

By Victor Mecoamere

TRANSFORMING institutions of higher learning into technological universities is the theme of an international seminar that is being hosted by Technikon Free State which began in Bloemfontein yesterday.

Local education experts and their counterparts from the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand and the Netherlands are to discuss this growing global trend.

British polytechnics, which are similar to local technikon, changed to new technological universities in 1992, while New Zealand's Auckland Institute of Technology is due to be awarded the same status.

The Dutch Education Ministry intends changing the status of its technikons to universities of professional education, while German technikons are becoming known as universities of applied sciences.

Seminar publicists said that several higher-education experts felt that the National Commission on Higher Education, which ushered in the current Higher Education Act, had ignored the issue and potential of some technikons being turned into technological universities.

This view stems from perusal of national policy debates and documents, which lead publicists to believe that the education authorities do not yet have clarity on the issue of transforming technikons to technological universities.

Panelists - who include Professor John Pratt of East London University in the UK, the University of Twente's Professor Frits Schutte from Holland and Professor Gary Thomas of the New Jersey Technology Institute - are expected to examine various elements related to the importance, possibilities and obstacles of transforming technikons into technological universities.

(54) source 28/10/99

### GE

THE rate of growth is at its lowest spending, as it page one on Tu

### AUST

### IT PR

C++, Visual E Informa

There are

if

There has r

the op

and the ch

Call today I

terr

Jacquel

Tel: (011)

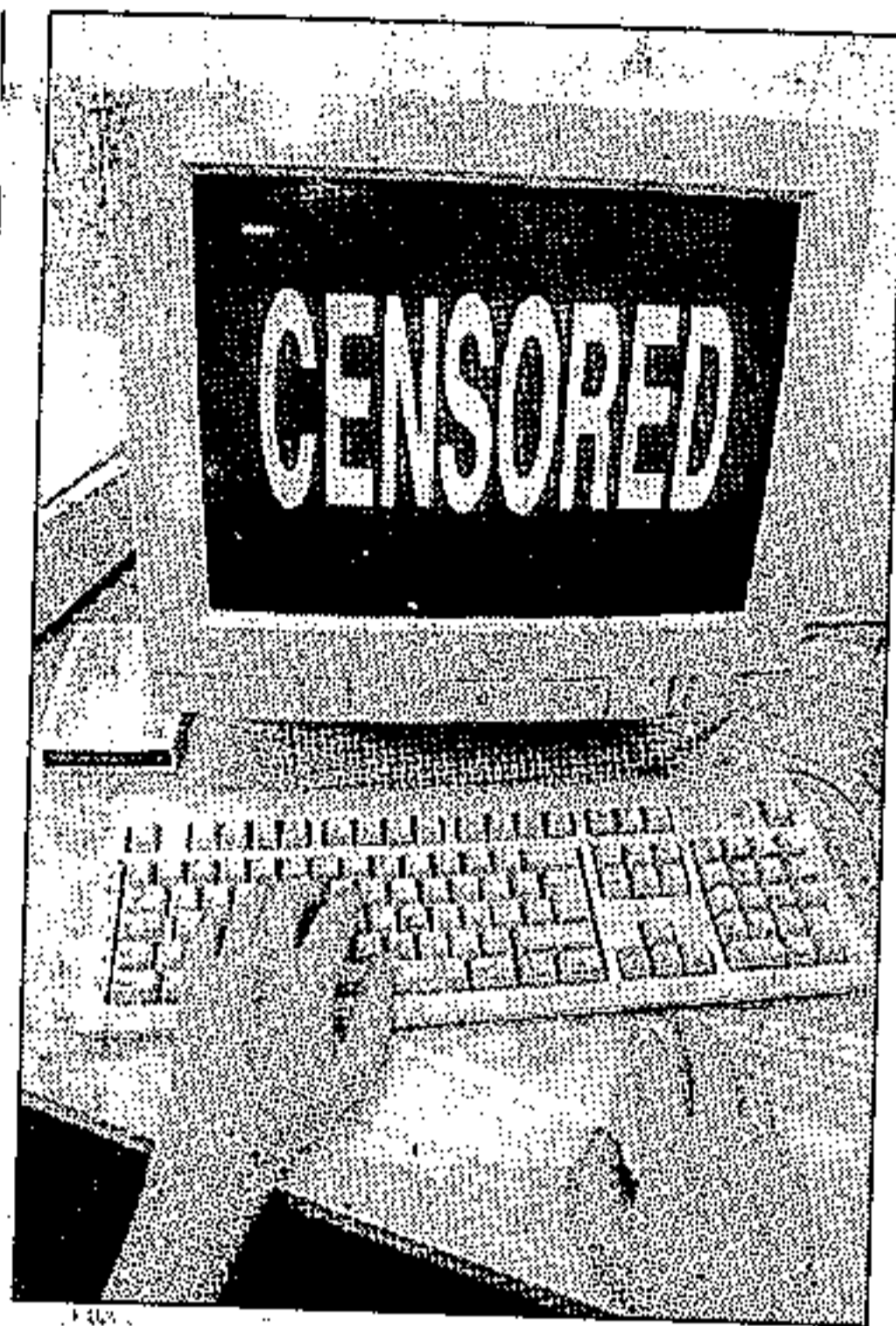
E-mail

Registered Mig

and Empl

Chairman

se prevention  
ement, as well  
!bn saved in  
image."  
Mopell of the  
who along with  
the sky eagerly  
barren land is  
a.



# Rhodes cuts porn surfing on the Net (54)

ARLT 30/10/99

## Academic 'lecherers' logged off

**PORN PATROL:** Rhodes is tackling a flood of porn viewing

**RITA LARISMA**  
Grahamstown

It's taken a year, but Rhodes students and academic "lecherers" appear to have been weaned off porn sites on the internet.

At the time the university authorities stepped in to block access to internet porn on its computers, there had been 28 000 requests for porn sites from only 4 000 students and staff over five days.

Usage - especially requests for porn pictures - was so high that internet bandwidth was being clogged up, raising fears that proper academic research on the web was being slowed down by the "unofficial" research.

Students and academic staff were outraged at what was called censorship, but this week Rhodes's IT systems manager

Francois Jacot-Guillarmod said opposition to the ban was now "slightly less noisy because people understand the reasons for it".

Mr Jacot-Guillarmod said he and his staff had been driven by a desire to open up the bandwidth - and not to impose mother Grundy morality on the university community. "We are all adults."

However, opposition rose to a pitch last year when the word "gay" was introduced as one of the words that would automatically trigger a site ban.

Gay activists accused the university of going too far by associating the sociological term "gay" with pornography.

Design lecturer and gay activist Brett Locke said: "They are throwing the baby out with the bath water."

Following the furore, which played itself out furiously over the Rhodes chat-lines, Rhodes withdrew its ban on gay sites.

Mr Jacot-Guillarmod conceded that the gay ban had been a "mis-

judgment" and that his department had tried to cast their censorship net too broadly.

Rhodes has now adopted a more flexible approach.

Editor of Rhodes student newspaper, Activate, Jak Koseff said: "Rhodes students have come to accept the blocks on porn sites and learnt to work around it."

By this he meant students who needed to research pornography or sex-related issues could approach the IT department to lift the ban.

Mr Jacot-Guillarmod said the university also accommodated any legitimate academic project that had special bandwidth needs.

Polite requests to reduce porn surfing had been completely ignored, hence the need to impose monitoring censorship.

He said other South African universities had all experienced similar problems and had either "restricted access or thrown money at the problem." - ECN Weekend

## NATIONAL

# University staff are due to meet Asmal (54)

02 2/11/99

### Delegation is expected to call for dismissal of vice-chancellor

Primarashni Pillay

A DELEGATION from the University of the North is expected to meet Education Minister Kader Asmal tomorrow and call for the dismissal of vice-chancellor Biko Minyuku and the appointment of an interim CE.

The move comes in the wake of allegations of maladministration and mismanagement against Minyuku, whose office said yesterday that he did not speak to the media.

Staff are also calling for the dismissal of Benny Boshieho, chairman of the university council, on the grounds that he lacks the credentials for the job.

The delegation will call for an independent assessor to investigate problems on campus.

Staff have accused Minyuku of autocratic governance and being involved in irregular appointments

of senior staff. Minyuku was the university's registrar in 1995 but left to work for the truth commission.

The university then terminated his services. He was appointed vice-chancellor this year and is apparently continuing legal action against the university, on the grounds of unfair labour practices stemming from his leaving to join the commission.

Minyuku's salary package, believed to be in the region of R1.4m, is being investigated by the Heath special investigating unit.

In a memorandum handed to the education ministry, staff accused Minyuku of appointing two new people to positions that were already occupied. The memorandum says that with these being senior positions, "we cannot begin to fathom the financial implications to an institution such as ours. We fear that this might be a case of

mismanagement of the resources of the university."

Other new appointments allegedly orchestrated by Minyuku include a CE of administration and two deans.

"Our main concern here is that the senate and some other structures ... of the university were not involved in the process as contemplated in the (Higher Education) Act," the memorandum said.

The memorandum alleges there were some positions where only one candidate was presented for the interview, "and these individuals were eventually appointed."

The document accuses Minyuku of reducing the university's faculties from four to two, without consulting with the university community.

It also accuses the university council of conferring a professorship on Minyuku without consulting the university senate.

## Development course in pipeline

Nicola Jenvey (54)

DURBAN — The University of Natal will launch a training programme next year aimed at integrating population issues into sustainable development projects.

The university said yesterday the acute shortage of trained population development planners was part of the reason for the slow pace of development in communities.

The new programme will equip gov-

ernment strategists, as well as private sector and nongovernmental organisation planners, with skills to integrate population issues into practical and achievable development plans.

Peter Ubomba-Jaswa, who is setting up the programme, said: "The HIV/Aids pandemic, particularly among the youth, has become one of the top priority issues that must now be taken up in all public and private sector development programmes."

02 2/11/99

# On the highveld, wind of change hits Tukkie

(54) 80 3/11/99

Black student numbers have risen dramatically this decade, yet the same cannot be said for black academics, writes Primarashni Pillay

**I**N THE early 1990s there were 293 black students at Pretoria University. This year, of the 27 000 students on the main campus, about 8 000 are black.

Nevertheless, vice-chancellor Johan van Zyl says the university is not transforming fast enough to reflect national demographics.

Van Zyl, who displays the new SA flag prominently in his office, asks why the black students cannot number 18 000: "As a sector, and as a university, we can and should do more to transform."

Pretoria University has, with the exception of Unisa and Vista, the highest number (6 442) of black students, not including coloureds and Indians, on the main campus. The university has followed a policy of raising standards and this has attracted more black students in recent years.

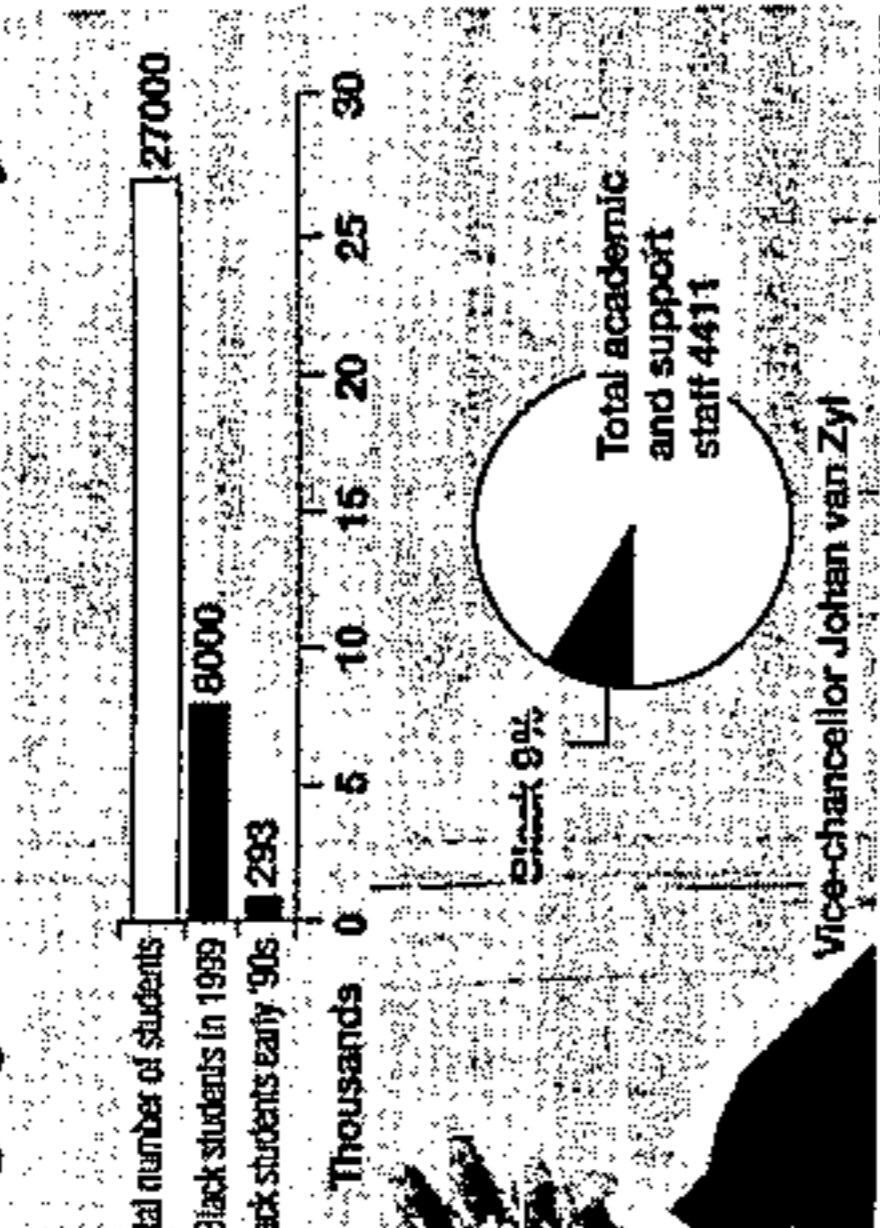
The university has redirected resources towards support mechanisms that will help students prepare for university. "We have several bridging and foundation courses," van Zyl says.

The university has also been marketing itself in black schools. However, only 9% of 4 411 academic and academic support staff are black. "We have a large pool of black students who could later be trained as academics. We are growing our own timber by trying to get black students to do master's degrees and doctorates while we carry the financial costs," he says.

The university council has also allocated funds to appoint additional academic staff of colour to increase diversity. "Often there is a



The changing face of Pretoria University



Vice-chancellor Johan van Zyl  
Graphic: KUBEN DAVID

ly occupied by blacks. House fathers and mothers were appointed according to the racial composition of the residence.

Van Zyl says the fact that the students come from different backgrounds means that there will be problems.

Mzoneli, though, says it is difficult for black students to be elected to house committees because they occupy only 20% to 30% of the residences. "Their exclusion makes it difficult for black interests to be taken into account."

Mzoneli advocates a quota system for black students on house committees.

Another issue is the slow demise of the use of Afrikaans. Gone are the days when most lectures were in that language. Today lectures are offered in English and Afrikaans, leading Van Zyl to argue that the institution is no longer purely Afrikaans.

SRC president Johan Grobler does not believe the language is under threat. However, he concedes that some students do have this view. About 54% of students are Afrikaans-speaking, down from 80% seven years ago.

Grobler, who has been on campus for four years, is adamant that academic standards have not dropped since the university opened its doors to blacks. "People used to fear that. It's very easy for

people to blame things on another culture."

However, there are still some white students who are sceptical about the abilities of black lecturers. "They try to test you and if you are not confident they can break you," says a black lecturer, who adds that she has "amicable relations" with white academics in her department.

It is clear that the transformation problems on the campus are a microcosm of issues in broader SA society.

Perhaps this is why Van Zyl is trying to bring the institution closer to the community. "We have to try to align ourselves so that we're not an ivory tower institution but a basement-embedded one."

"We have to be relevant in everything we do to the taxpayer, in students who want to find jobs, in the curriculum and also in our international competitiveness."

From next year students in mainly the economic and management sciences fields will have to learn German and French. "We want to add value. The product has to be different so people will want it and are willing to pay a higher price for it," says Van Zyl.

To be recognised internationally the university cannot offer bogus degrees where people cannot find work. We don't rely on self-evaluation and buddies."

The university supplies 30% of highly skilled graduates in the sciences in SA.

Says Van Zyl: "If we can't get Pretoria University to work, then the country will struggle."



HIGHER EDUCATION

# REGISTRATION FIASCO PUSHES EDUCATORS TO THE EDGE

Public left in the dark over status of private-sector courses

Private businesses providing further education and training are in a froth over government's inability to accredit and register them. As a result, they are losing business to public institutions and some smaller businesses fear they may go under unless a speedy solution can be found.

The crux of the problem is that the public has been warned by government not to use private providers who are not registered and accredited with the State. In a press statement released last week, the Department of Education says it "will not be held responsible for the ignorance of learners and potential learners who continue to deal with fly-by-night institutions, despite repeated warnings issued through the media."

What the public doesn't know is that it is physically impossible for anyone who pro-

vides unit-based short courses — whether they are higher or further education institutions — to be registered. They will be able to apply for accreditation only after April next year, when the Sector Education and Training Authorities are set up under the Department of Labour.

"Our problem is that we may not be in business by then because the public has been told that if we aren't accredited we are fly-by-nights," says a desperate Marjette van Rooyen, chairperson of the Alliance of Private Providers of Education, Training & Development (APPETD), an umbrella body representing the private education sector.

"Yesterday, I got three calls from frantic small businesses saying: 'Please help us, we can't get business if we aren't accredited.'"

Van Rooyen says government has failed to honour its promise to the APPETD that it would explain the situation to the public. APPETD is considering taking court action.

Many private higher-education institutions (colleges, universities and technicals that provide post-grade 12 qualifications in programmes that exceed a year) are also frustrated. All private higher-education institutions must be accredited by the SA Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and registered with the Education Department by December 31 1999.

To become accredited, the State must be satisfied that a private institution is financially sustainable and observes standards at least equivalent to those in the public sector. It must also undertake not to "discriminate on racial grounds."

Last week, the department guaranteed that all higher-education institutions that met the deadline for submitting their applications would be informed of their status by December 31, but it will take many more months

to process those who applied late and it will be illegal for them to operate without registration after December 31. At least one overseas institution, Napier University of Scotland, has pulled out of the country as a result. Its 50 students have been absorbed by the De Montfort University in Benmore, which is one of only four private higher-education institutions to have been registered so far.

"It was an enormous exercise," says De Montfort Business School director Wouter Dreyer. "It took two months of my life."

Dreyer says the college, which is based in the UK and operates in 40 countries, paid lawyers a fortune to interpret the new rules. It also flew out two experts from its internal quality assurance division in the UK to complete the application forms, which they found closely resembled the Scottish system. The process took more than a year.

Promat Inset College of Education has also been registered, but principal Sue Rees found the process "very onerous". SAQA kept losing parts of her application, forcing her to resubmit it three times. The whole process took three years. Moreover, she feels it is failing to weed out the shady operators because, at this stage, there is no external valuation or site inspection.

## BUREAUCRATIC LOOPS

- All private higher-education institutions must be registered and accredited by the State by December 31 1999
- The Education Minister will announce the names of registered institutions towards the end of the year
- From January 1 2000, those not registered will be operating illegally and may be closed down
- This does not apply to institutions offering short courses, which will be accredited only after April 2000

"My own criticisms came back to me in my own words as findings of the institution. This could be problematic if you have a less honest principal," she points out. Another shortcoming, she says, is that private colleges that provide education and training for accredited universities on an agency basis, do not need to be accredited themselves.

Midrand University administration manager Margie Cairns feels positive about the exercise, despite the many hours of overtime spent collating the detailed information required, some of which is related

to the State subsidy system and therefore inapplicable to a private institution. "We believe it's right that private institutions be required to fulfil certain requirements; on the other hand, we ask the department not to suffocate the good guys with over-legislation," she says.

Carol Prins, chairperson of the Association of Private Colleges of SA (APCSA), argues that some of the standards against which private institutions are being judged are inappropriate as large public universities are being used as the benchmark. For instance, she says, private institutions are expected to have research facilities and governing bodies.

Not so, says the Education Department's chief director of policy development and support, Dr Molapo Qhobela. He denies that government wants to create clones of UCT and says no application has been turned down for the reasons mentioned.

He stresses that government is registering institutions to ensure that the public receives a quality and sustainable education. The process is not designed to punish or to be unduly restrictive. Any application that is turned down will be accompanied by a detailed written explanation.

Claire Bissette

# Vice-chancellor chipping away at Fort Hare's overdraft

Primarashni Pillay (54)

FORT Hare University's bank overdraft was between R30m to R40m and was expected to be R10m lower than the projected R70m at the end of March next year, acting vice-chancellor Dr Derrick Swartz said yesterday.

Swartz took the helm of the financially troubled university in April, and has managed to steer it to calmer waters.

He was appointed acting vice-chancellor on a six-month contract, following a recommendation by independent assessor Stuart Saunders that the contract not be renewed. Saunders was appointed by the education ministry to investigate problems on the campus.

The investigation disclosed that Mzameane lacked fiscal discipline and there was a lack of efficient financial measures which included not renewing

certain contract posts and outsourcing services like catering and transport.

"We have also been able to collect more student fees than last year," Swartz said. He said the university was trying to reduce the overdraft by R10m over a five-year sliding scale so that by the end of the sixth year, it would have a zero-based budget.

The university council has renewed his contract for a further six months.

# Academic charged with misappropriation of funds

M+G 5-11/11/99 (54)  
Marianne Merten

Management at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) will decide next week whether steps should be taken against an academic whom colleagues recently confronted over alleged financial misappropriation.

These claims are the latest development in a long-standing acrimonious relationship between two academics at UWC's Institute for Child and Family Development.

Tensions came to a head last December, prompting Dr Yawo Amoateng to obtain a court interdict against his colleague Dr Rose September after she distributed what he said was a defamatory critique of one of his published articles by a non-existent academic from Port Elizabeth.

The dean of the faculty for community and health science, Professor Tyrone Pretorius, said he would raise the concerns with rector Cecil Abrahams.

Pretorius confirmed staff had confronted September, but he said there should be an opportunity for parties to explain their actions as there is no proof of wrongdoing.

"If it is the case, it is a matter of

urgency. But at this stage I have no reason to believe there are any financial irregularities. I think it's a case of explaining some expenditures."

Yet Pretorius is adamant that if the explanations are not sufficient, steps will be taken either through an internal disciplinary hearing or an outside committee of inquiry. "We have done it in the past. We will do it again."

One incident on which the claims of lack of financial accountability are based is an overseas air ticket for which September allegedly was sponsored twice. According to documents in the possession of the Mail & Guardian, September asked the Swedish NGO Raedra Barnen to fund her travel to Geneva for a meeting two months ago. A letter from the NGO dated September 10 confirmed R5 100 had been paid into her bank account. The ticket had already been paid for by the British Council.

Sources claim this was the most recent example of what has become a pattern of spending by September.

Earlier this year the university managers were alerted to a dispute around a R20 000 consultancy fee to September for a child protection neighbourhood project funded by the Nelson Mandela Children's Trust

BN 5/11/99

## New-look university on the cards

ST 7/11/99

(54)

MPUMALANGA intends founding a new institution for higher education — one that will offer a mix of university and technikon learning, writes CORNIA PRETORIUS.

A proposal on how to establish such a model will go to Mpumalanga Premier Ndaweni Mahlangu later this month. The premier will take it to the provincial Cabinet and the national government, said Fanyana Dlamini, who is part of the steering committee driving the project.

This follows a conference in September where education authorities and higher education institutions already operating in Mpumalanga agreed in principle on a model where they would join forces to provide the best possible higher education to the province.

Mpumalanga has three technikons

within its borders: Pretoria, Vaal Triangle and SA, and seven universities: Pretoria, Vista, Unisa, RAU, Port Elizabeth, Wits and Stellenbosch, but none is based in the province.

In 1994 Mpumalanga launched the University-Technikon Collaboration Initiative to investigate higher education in the province.

Originally the idea was to begin another university, but a research report stated that the "form of higher education provision in Mpumalanga will not take the shape of a single, contact, brick and mortar institution".

It may include public and private institutions, contact and distance learning, and offer courses for young and mature students on a full- and part-time basis, including short professional courses and degree programmes.

# Wits academics found guilty of misconduct

Nomavenda Mathiane

TWO senior Witwatersrand University economics lecturers have been found guilty of misconduct by the university's disciplinary committee after they refused to mark examination papers. Wits vice-chancellor Prof Colin Bundy said yesterday.

Bundy said Peter Karungu and Elizabeth Marabwa had been found guilty of misconduct as defined in the university's disciplinary procedures.

Bundy said their refusal to mark examinations was identified as "a serious offence". Judgment on the disciplinary hearing, which started last November, was released in October. The recommendations have yet to be discussed by council.

Bundy said the panel criticised aspects of Prof Charles Simkins's management style as head of department, but did not find his behaviour was racist.

"I would rather not comment on the judgment and recommen-

dations ... as the recommendations have not yet been discussed by council," said Bundy.

Contacted for comment, Karungu said their problem began when he, together with colleagues Marabwa and Barbara Mbire, were excluded from coordinating and preparing an examination paper for Economics 1, which they were teaching.

He alleged the university appointed four whites who had not taught the course before, nor were they teaching it then. He

claimed only one had a master's degree, while the black academics each had at least a masters' degree in economics.

Karungu said he and his colleagues had appealed to the university to intervene, but without success. The manner in which issues regarding racism was treated, he said, particularly in the economics department, was to sweep them under the carpet.

Karungu said the university's treatment of blacks was "unacceptable" in the spirit of recon-

ciliation and transformation.

The incident seems set to put the university in the public eye once more. In 1995, Wits deputy vice-chancellor Mokgalepule Makgoba was accused of "falsifying" his curriculum vitae and faced a commission of inquiry after 13 senior academics complained about his qualifications.

The acrimonious mud-slinging which ensued left one accuser committing suicide, while many have resigned. Makgoba later left after a truce.

(54) 20

12/11/99

# 'Transformation vital for Wits'

By Claire Keeton  
Feature Writer

**W**ITS UNIVERSITY, like many tertiary institutions in South Africa, must balance its commitment to transformation with a concurrent drive towards restructuring and rationalisation.

Wits director of transformation and employment equity Dr Wendy Orr says there is a positive side to this balancing act. "One way it is beneficial is that it is easier to bring about change in a changing environment."

She admits, however, that it is difficult to develop targets when the goals keep moving. "It is difficult to plan for a situation that will have changed fundamentally by the time you get there," she told *Sowetan*.

But Orr - a medical doctor with a track record of confronting the security police over the maltreatment of detainees in the 1980s and more recently having worked as a Truth and Reconciliation commissioner - does not hesitate to take on major challenges.

Employed by Wits from August 1, she is clear about the process needed to bring about transformation and equity at Wits.

The university's immediate priority is developing an employment equity plan by June, in line with the requirements of the Department of Labour.

"This is essentially a transformative process," says Orr.

She says transformation must be broader than simply the recruitment and selection of staff, since it must impact on the institutional culture of both staff and students.

"Student transformation is an important area," says Orr, who met with the newly elected students representative council soon after her appointment.

She says they have started a dialogue (which will resume after exams), in which students identified the issues of institutional culture and curriculum transformation as priorities.

The first step towards transformation has been an audit of the university's staff and practices.

"We brought in a team of consultants to help the process and they have

Dr Wendy Orr ... transformation at Wits University must be broader than simply the recruitment and selection of staff.

PHOTO: PICTURENET



"They have a very genuine commitment to transformation. It is part of the Wits strategic plan to embrace diversity."

Orr says the university is determined to increase the number of black and female academics. Yet the restructuring at Wits "to deliver more effective and appropriate tertiary education" puts this process under pressure.

"It is a significant problem. It is very difficult to diversity in an environment which is losing staff instead of bringing them in."

"It means we need to be rigorous and focused about the staff who are appointed. We must be more energetic about recruiting staff rather than waiting for applications," says Orr.

"Diversity is at the forefront and we will not sacrifice excellence."

However, she adds it is necessary to interrogate the traditional idea of excellence. "It is a very one-sided idea depending on whether a person has a PhD, is an A-rated scientist or has published widely."

"We must be more flexible in our definition. We must recognise and nurture the potential for excellence. It might take time but we can't simply sit back and wait."

She says all faculties at Wits must develop strategies to retain black and female post-graduates and academics, even those with constraints like engineering and commerce (which cannot compete with private sector salaries).

Orr says they also "have to develop specific strategies" towards transforming, such as creating a less alienating environment.

For example two economics lecturers - excluded from setting exam papers on their courses and then found guilty of misconduct for refusing to mark the papers - have accused their department of ignoring problems of racism, contrary to the spirit of transformation.

Orr says: "Black and female staff might be more inclined to stay at Wits if they felt more comfortable."

She says: "Wits is looking at regional cooperation and links with other African universities."

"As a university in the Southern African Development Community and Africa, Wits has a key role to play in the African renaissance."

white and 86 percent are men.

In contrast at the less senior levels, women make up 74 percent and black staff 30 percent of tutors, while among junior lecturers 42 percent are women and 37 percent are black.

Orr acknowledges there is a need for change, in the same way the student population has been changing over the past decade. This year more than half of the 16 500 students at Wits are black (about 9 000). About 6 500 of the students are African.

"We need a concerted strategy to accelerate change and move to representativeness," she says, though, there have already been significant changes on the "11th floor", where senior executives, including Wits vice-chancellor Professor Colin Bundy, are based.

done a qualitative analysis. They have fresh, impartial eyes which can assist Wits."

She says one consultant conducted focus groups across campus on why Wits has problems retaining black and female staff, and those with disabilities.

"People who participated said it was useful and informative. We are waiting for her report back now."

Another step has been setting up a forum of staff members, which is as representative as possible, to work on a development plan. "It is difficult to constitute a small functional forum," says Orr.

But she is satisfied the 16-member forum - with members from the academic and administrative staff, as well as the trade unions - will be able to

make progress. The forum met for the first time at the beginning of November to familiarise itself with the Employment Equity Act.

Orr says the disparities between black and white staff at Wits was one of the first issues raised at the forum. For instance, the senior management of the support staff is dominated by whites.

This is not the only arena where white men hold higher positions. Statistics of the Wits academic staff this year show that 81 percent are white and 61 percent are male.

This imbalance becomes more marked the more senior the positions. Among clinical professors, 81 percent are white and 61 percent are men, leaving only 19 percent black appointees and 39 percent women. At the level of professors, 94 percent are

# New UCT degree 'leads way'

PRISCILLA SINGH  
EDUCATION WRITER

THE University of Cape Town is embarking on a drive to make the country more scientifically literate and technologically fluent by introducing a four-degree programme to deliver more maths and science teachers.

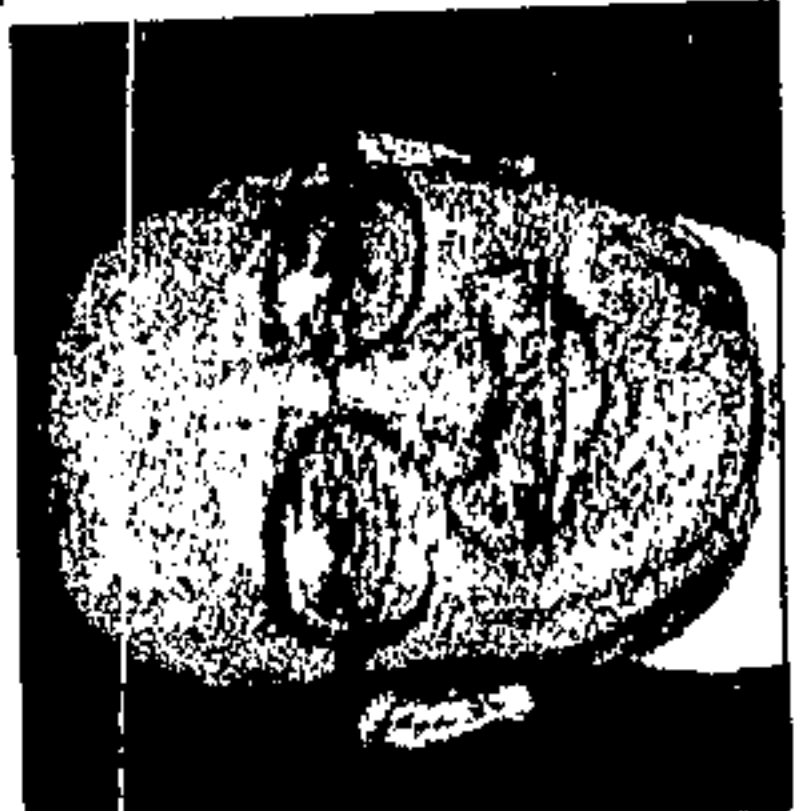
South Africa has a critical shortage of maths and science teachers and limited resources for coping with the demands of the new information and communication technologies.

Education Minister Kader Asmal announced the new Bachelor of Science in Education degree on UCT's behalf yesterday and said it provided an excellent example of an institution responding to the critical educational needs of the country.

While designed primarily for high school teachers, the four-year BScEd also offers a range of specialised related courses.

"UCT's new degree is the first of its kind in the country and may well provide a model for similar degree programmes internationally," said Asmal.

"We also need to review all further education and training programmes in the light of the social and economic needs of our communities in the 21st



DELIGHTED: Kader Asmal

century. In this context, I am delighted at the initiatives shown by UCT in developing programmes designed to meet the many crucial educational needs of the country."

Asmal also announced the appointment of UCT professor Michael Kahn — who will be leading the BSc in Education programme — as his first "outside adviser".

Kahn will work in Asmal's office, advising him on issues related to maths, science and technology in education.

UCT vice-chancellor Mamphele

Ramphele said the university was committed to helping society face the enormous challenges of the 21st century. Closing the wide skills gap in maths, science and technology was one of its commitments.

"Our new BScEd answers a national need," she said.

Asmal added that in crucial aspects, South Africa was not ready for the 21st century. Challenges included inequality, low teacher morale, failures in the management of teaching institutions and a poor quality of learning.

"Of particular concern is the standard of teaching and learning in the crucial subjects of mathematics and science. Last year's Senior Certificate results, especially in six provinces, shocked the nation."

"By comparison with other middle income countries, our learners perform very badly in internationally standardised tests in maths and science. The number of young people who study maths with any degree of understanding and proficiency has declined," Asmal said.

Kahn said: "The degree fully supports Curriculum 2005 and will have an integrated view of the sciences. The underlying goal is to develop science literacy and technological fluency."

# Wits human resources boss quits

Primerashmi Pillay (54)

WITS University's director of human resources, Sybil Ngcobo, has resigned, apparently out of frustration over the university's inability to draw and retain black staff, sources said yesterday.

Ngcobo denied this was the reason for her resignation, which came at a time when the university is being accused by some black academics of failing to attract and retain black staff.

Her resignation comes a few days after the results of a university disciplinary hearing in which two black academics were found guilty of misconduct as they had refused to mark economics exam papers. One of them, Peter Karungu, said four whites who had not taught the subject had been given preference to set the exams while they had been excluded.

Ngcobo, who has been with the university for three years, said she was leaving "for better prospects and personal growth. I wouldn't leave for something that is not attractive." She did not disclose what her new career would be.

# UCT tackles teaching crisis

AR 19/11/99 (54)

LYNETTE JOHNS  
EDUCATION REPORTER

A new degree course aimed at providing science teachers with the means to cope with the 21st century will be offered by the University of Cape Town from next year.

The Bachelor of Science Education or B Sc Ed degree, has been created to train maths, science and technology teachers and reduce a chronic shortage.

Michael Kahn, UCT professor of mathematical, science and technology education, said: "An audit in 1996 showed that South Africa had a shortage of between 4 000 and 12 000 high school teachers-in science and mathematics."

Colleges of education are producing about 600 teachers a year qualified to teach maths

and science, and another 200 teachers in these fields graduate from universities each year.

The World Economic Forum and the Third International Mathematics and Science Study ranked South Africa among countries with the least skills in mathematics and science. In a recent survey of 26 countries, South African schoolchildren came bottom in their understanding of science and mathematics.

The new course, announced by Minister of Education Kader Asmal and outgoing UCT vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphele, will cater mainly for high school teachers. It is the first such course in the country and UCT is hoping other universities will follow suit.

Professor Asmal said South African education was not ready for the 21st century. The standards of teaching and learning in maths and science was of particular concern.

# Some universities grow as overall student enrolment falls

WHILE several tertiary education institutions say they have spent more money this year on marketing and advertising to attract a higher share of the student pool, some are projecting a decline in numbers for next year.

Contrary to the projections of the National Commission on Higher Education, which in 1996 said there would be a great increase in student enrolment, numbers at some institutions have dwindled.

Historically black institutions are the hardest hit, in part because some students perceive the courses on offer to be inferior in quality.

The cream of the crop of black matriculants has flocked to historically white institutions. Reasons for the general decline in student numbers at various institutions include fewer matric exemption passes, a high unemployment rate and limited access to funding.

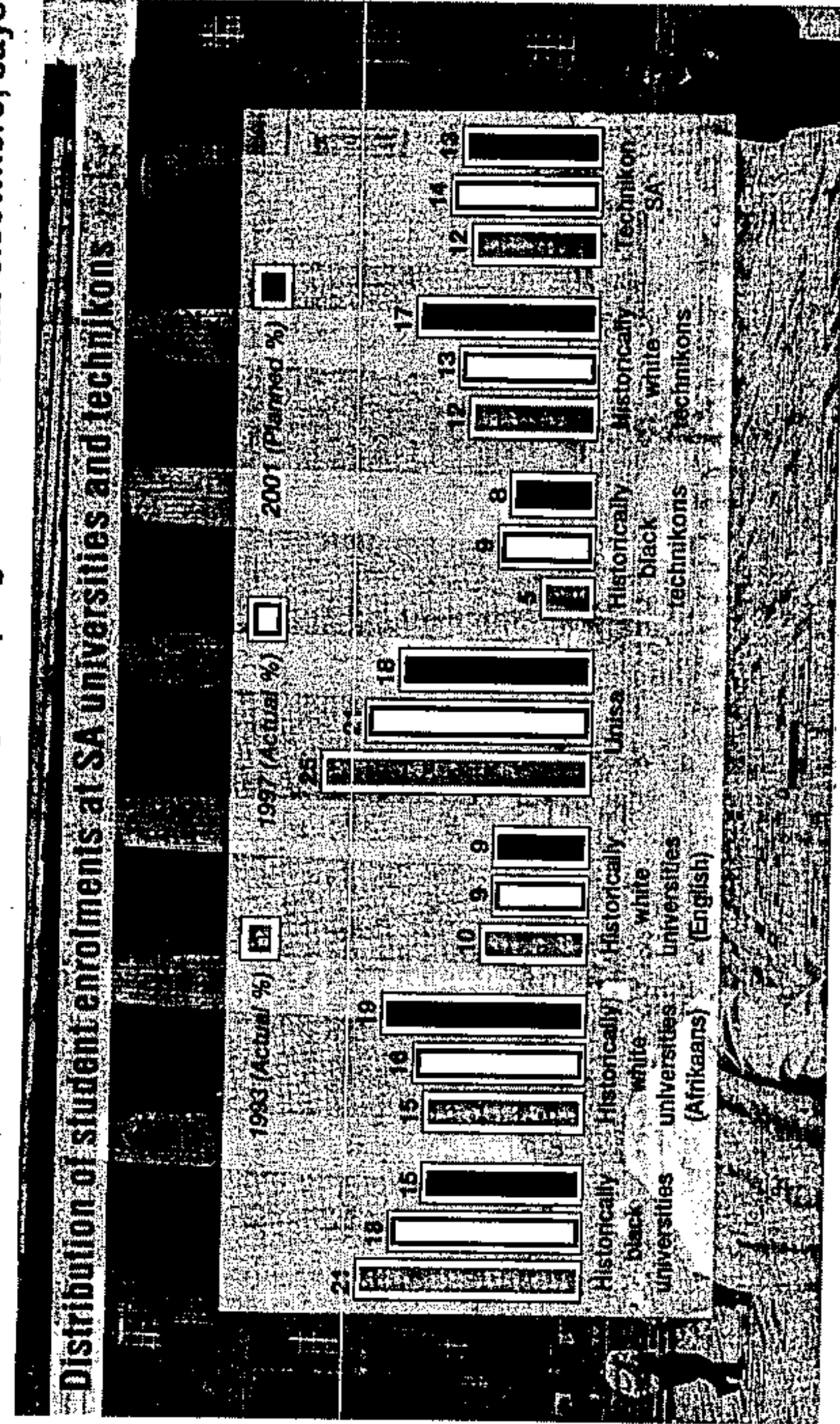
The education department conceded this year that the commission's projections were optimistic and student numbers would continue to decline.

A representative of Natal University, who asked not to be named, said 20 860 students were registered. She projected a 1.5% decrease in student numbers next year.

She attributed this to the inability of many parents to pay fees and an anticipated small pool of matriculants.

"Many prospective students would find it difficult to secure

Historically black institutions are hardest hit, while marketing campaigns show results elsewhere, says Primarashni Pillay



Picture: BRETT ELOFF. Graphic: KAREN MOOLMAN. Source: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

courses, which had been internationally audited, he said.

In the past five years there has been a proliferation of private higher education institutions, many local and some foreign. These institutions do not subsidise students as opposed to the public education system, where government subsidises university and technikon students by up to 70%.

Legislation requires these private institutions to apply for registration with the education department and for accreditation with the SA Qualifications Authority.

While more than 500 institutions are believed to be operating in SA, only a handful have registered. The department can legally shut down unregistered institutions next year.

Marietta van Rooyen, chairman of the Alliance of Private Providers of Education, Training and Development, said these institutions were geared for the needs of students and that they offered different modes of learning that included distance education and in-service training.

"Parents are aware that these institutions offer work skills and knowledge and this could make their children more employable," Van Rooyen said.

She said some institutions were working in partnership with foreign and local public institutions.

"The private providers would like to work with the public institutions," she said.

had good residences and some degrees had been restructured. The university had also allocated more funds for financial aid.

Technikon Natal is projecting a 1% student increase on this year's enrolment of 9 150.

ML Sultan Technikon, which has 9 110 students this year, expects a lower intake of 9 014 because it has phased out some courses.

Some Afrikaans-language universities are also projecting a higher student intake.

Pretoria University spokesman Leon Rademeyer said the university had 26 723 students on its main campus, a 0.15% increase on last year, and already had a registration of 6 000 new students for next year.

He said the university expected a slight increase for next year. The number of black students had increased "dramatically to 8 000" in the past five years.

Frikkie Kotzé, spokesman for Potchefstroom University, said it was expecting an overall increase in student numbers on its main campus and in its distance education programmes.

"We ran a big advertising campaign on the radio and in newspapers and our recent launch of a Rugby Institute is expected to draw more students," he said.

Parents were drawn to the stability the university offered as well as the quality of the

increase would be at a postgraduate level and that the university was approaching an equilibrium at the undergraduate level.

He said students were attracted to the university as it

still too early to judge the situation. The University of Cape Town expects a 2% increase from its current enrolment of 16 343 students.

Acting communications director Paddy Attwell said the in-

crease would be at a postgraduate level and that the university was approaching an equilibrium at the undergraduate level.

He said students were attracted to the university as it

still too early to judge the situation. The University of Cape Town expects a 2% increase from its current enrolment of 16 343 students.

Acting communications director Paddy Attwell said the in-

# Unhealthy competition

MHG 19-25/11/99

(54)

David Robbins

**T**he central premise in the size and shape debate is that the apartheid inheritance has caused distortions in tertiary education that now need correcting. The size of the sector — in student numbers — and the shape of it — the types of institutions it contains, and the proportion of universities to technikons — are not necessarily what the country requires.

Minister of Education Kadar Asmal has been talking about his intention to "review the institutional landscape" and "to take the necessary action with all deliberate speed" — a

statement which has caused prolonged rumbles of speculation and heightened competition, among universities in particular.

Writing in the latest *Quarterly Review of Education and Training*, George Subotzky of the education policy unit at the University of the Western Cape sums up the situation.

"The urgency of the minister's intention to take action is motivated by understandable concerns for the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of the system. Inefficiency runs deep, with wasteful institutional and programmatic duplications, numerous instances of poor quality and unsatisfactory success rates, and lack of adequate financial management. The cur-

rent shape and size of the system continues to reduce the effectiveness of higher education in meeting societal needs."

One way to understand the impact of the apartheid inheritance on tertiary education is to point out its similarity to railway bridges. Remember the days when we used to have bridges for whites, and identical bridges for those who weren't white? The purpose of all the bridges was the same: to get people to the other side of the tracks. When everyone began using all the bridges, the obvious issues became: do we have too many bridges for the basic purpose? Or will increasing passenger volumes at railway stations ultimately justify all the bridges?

Although the tertiary education system is a good deal more complex than this analogy allows, the questions of duplication and volume are fundamental. Duplication is relatively straightforward and has already been addressed at institutional and (to a lesser extent so far) regional level. Natal University, for example, has rationalised away much of the departmental duplication that existed across its Durban and Pietermaritzburg campuses. And in Cape Town and Johannesburg, institutions are trying to not duplicate the programmes offered by others, seeking instead more co-operative arrangements with their neighbours.

But it's not all sweetness and light, as the following comment illustrates: "There's talk of Medunsa merging with the medical school at Pretoria. But why disadvantage Medunsa in this way? Is it because we're supposed to be used to being disadvantaged?"

"We're in competition with Pretoria, but the authorities don't seem capable of recognising our requirements. We're in desperate need of more training hospital beds, for example, but additional beds are going to Pretoria instead. We've got a top class neurosurgery unit here, but so has Pretoria. Guess who'll lose their unit?"

The numbers issue is equally charged. The urgent need here is to establish whether the current level of 520 000 tertiary students will be enough to satisfy the professional and technological demands of the country, and what proportions should be maintained between technikon and university education.

When the experts sat down earlier this decade to produce the White Paper on Higher Education, steadily or even dramatically increasing student numbers was taken as inevitable. Contrary to this assumption, though, the university sector has been shrinking since 1996, and now even the technikons as a group have stopped growing.

Some voices within the debate argue that this shrinkage is a temporary trend. Student populations will once more increase as soon as the number of potential students emerging from the school system increases. Or have we already got as many students as we need?

Probably not. International trends with regard to the numbers of tertiary-trained students are illustrated by the experience of Japan, where nearly 90% of school-leavers do post-school education. Considerably less than 20% of these students go to a university, however; the remainder do job-related and largely technical courses. If we are to follow international trends however, then we need vigorous student growth to stay afloat in the next century.

But nobody is ready yet to say exactly how much growth. This lack of information is illustrative of one of the most harmful yet usually hidden legacies of the apartheid era. When a country is running on ideological fuel, "real" statistics and data banks of vital information are rarely its priority.

Now, the departments of education and labour are working to counteract this deficiency. But so far information about the economy and its manpower needs, about socio-economic development in all its myriad spheres, and not least about the output and replenishment of the higher education sector itself, seems not to be refined enough to provide a definitive answer.

Nevertheless, the debate continues. What is obvious is that the old duplications brought about by separate development are wasteful. A differentiated approach — which means a number of different kinds of institutions rather than a combination of undiluted universities and full-scale technikons — seems a better bet than crude closures and mergers and so-called downgrades.

In practice, differentiation means that each institution should find its niche rather than all institutions striving for identical goals; and also that they should work in a co-operative way with other institutions, seeking to serve the needs of their region and the country as a whole, rather than their own.

Yet that central ingredient, the optimum size of the tertiary education effort, is still lacking. This means that while many institutions are trying to reshape themselves, they appear to be doing so according to a template the actual dimensions of which they haven't yet seen.

It's no wonder, as the sector waits for clear leads from the minister and his department, that the individual survival of institutions and the competition between them have become the size-and-shape debate's most important subtexts.

## ENROL FOR A DISTANCE-LEARNING POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN PUBLIC HEALTH IN 2000.

*UWC's Public Health programmes give health professionals from all levels the skills to transform health and welfare in our country. Students can gain credits and qualifications incrementally (potentially leading to a Masters Degree), and will be able to enter and exit at a postgraduate Certificate or Diploma level.*

*These programmes focus on: Quantifying and prioritising health needs. Design, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive Primary Health Care programmes. Management of the District Health System. Health promotion applied to different settings. Health systems research. Health information systems. Each programme is offered through distance, resource-based learning, and scholarships are available for students from the Eastern Cape as well as historically disadvantaged students from other provinces.*

### POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

*This one-year part-time programme provides a firm grounding in academic learning skills, as well as in Public Health and Primary Health Care. It targets managers and supervisors of health and welfare services in local authorities and at district and regional levels.*

*Entrance Requirements: an undergraduate Degree or Diploma in any discipline, or 3 years relevant work experience with university-approved competence.*

### POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH

*This one-year part-time programme provides an in-depth study for managers and supervisors of health and welfare services (in local, district, regional and provincial levels), as well as health science educators.*

*Entrance Requirements: a postgraduate Certificate in Public Health, or an Honours Degree or equivalent*

*(in any discipline), or in exceptional cases, 5 years relevant work experience.*

### MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

*This 2-3 year programme consists of Diploma modules, a mini-thesis and specialist modules from a range of options. It is perfect for middle and senior managers (at district, regional, provincial and national levels) and health science educators.*

*Entrance Requirements: a postgraduate Diploma in Public Health, an Honours Degree or equivalent in any discipline, or, in exceptional cases, 5 years relevant work experience.*

*For further information and application forms, contact Ms M. Petersen or Ms C. Roberts at the Public Health Programme, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Bellville, 7535. Tel: (021) 959 2809.*

*Fax: (021) 959 2872. E-mail: mpeta@uwc.ac.za*

*Closing date for applications:  
10 December 1999.*



**University of the  
Western Cape**

**A PLACE OF QUALITY, A PLACE TO GROW.**

# Tertiary state subsidies to change

MTG 19-25/11/99 (54)

David Robbins

All public universities and technikons are partially funded by the state via a formula which calculates individual institutional funding according to a set of established criteria.

In a tertiary sector in considerable flux, a deal of dissatisfaction has been expressed about the formula currently in use. There's also talk of using a modified formula as a mechanism to steer the sector in directions decided on by the Ministry of Education, as it strives to reshape the sector to be more responsive to the kind of skills that the economy needs.

It is reasonably certain that the formula will change, although no one knows when. It could be as late as 2002 because the education department wants to get it right first time.

The current post-secondary education formula (known as Sapse) takes into account four basic elements of institutional performance: student numbers, area of study, student pass rates (or "throughput" as it is usually called) and level of study. There is also a research component which applies only to universities.

In more detail:

- "Student numbers" relate directly to the size of the student body.

- "Area of study" refers either to the humanities or the sciences, with the latter area commanding more than twice the subsidy received for the former. Therefore, a BSc undergraduate student is subsidised to the equivalent of two fine arts undergraduates.

- "Student throughput" relates directly to pass rates, so high failure rates adversely affect the amount of subsidy paid.

- "Level of study" is subsidised as follows: honours students derive a subsidy which is double that of undergraduates, master's students earn for their institution three times the undergraduate level, and doctoral students four times.

Obviously this formula favours the big established universities, invariably the historically white universities (HWU), which have low failure rates, high science components and plenty of postgraduate students.

Built into the formula is a set research component, sometimes called "blind" research funding, which is supposed to pay for the research effort expected of all academic staff at universities.

This funding is measured annually against research output, including book publication and articles in accredited journals.

Certain problems with this formula are immediately apparent. Since technikons had no postgraduate students before 1995, and since they receive no "blind" research funding, these institutions have consistently received a lower subsidy than universities.

In fact, until last year, universities had been subsidised to the tune of around 80%, while technikons have never received more than 60%, and often not much more than 50%.

It's worth looking, as well, at the historically disadvantaged universities (HDU) in relation to existing funding arrangements. Since the HDUs have traditionally dealt with students coming from disadvantaged educational backgrounds, degrees take longer to acquire at the HDUs than at the HWUs.

This places them at a disadvantage with regard to student throughput; and obviously the HDUs have far fewer postgraduate students than their HWU counterparts.

No wonder, therefore, that the main complaints about the funding formula come from the technikons and the HDUs.

The modified formula to be introduced has not yet been announced, but there are some fairly firm assumptions developing inside the tertiary institutions themselves:

- Firstly, the value of the "student throughput" element in the formula could be reduced, thereby reducing the financial impact of lower pass rates.

- The "levels of study" will probably be simplified, with considerably less emphasis

on the higher postgraduate levels.

So doctoral students might only be worth twice an undergraduate, rather than four times.

- A major refinement is expected with regard to "area of study". The probability, say many observers, will be that this element will be based on actual teaching costs. Thus, the laboratory-based sciences will receive more than humanities subjects like language or philosophy.

By the same token, though, fine arts could receive as much if not more than some of the sciences because of the material requirements of such a course.

With regard to research, the "blind" fund-

ing currently received by the universities will almost certainly fall away, and all institutions in the sector, as well as research groups in the private sector and NGOs, will compete for money from a common research pool.

The Ministry of Education is still talking about establishing sector education and training authorities (12 of them, for sectors including mining, agriculture and manufacturing) which will draw "every economic sector in the land into a process of strategic planning followed by the preparation of annual sectoral skills plans".

These clearer indications of demand are supposed to help the education department to influence the output of the tertiary education

sector by weighting this or that category within the "area of study" element in the funding formula.

"Many institutions," says the latest Education update on tertiary education, "are making unrealistic enrolment predictions, and, in particular, are planning for huge increases in science, engineering and technology because they think this will secure [larger] subsidies."

Another body of opinion, though, is leaning towards the view that funding will simply be linked to actual costs and that market forces, particularly in the programmes students choose to launch their careers, will be left to influence the output of the sector.

## There's no longer room for human error

An array of programmes that gives your business the body, blood and vitality to move forward.

In a technocratic world, your people are still your most valuable asset. Now Wits Business School lets you harness their skills so you can make the human factor of your organisation invincible. The choice is so wide, so comprehensive, so all embracing, yet focused at the same time, that we can only provide you here with a glimpse of some of the areas that the programme covers.

The Certificate Programme in Strategic HR Management is an innovative programme that enables participants to attend core courses and accumulate other credits from a number of executive courses offered by the Business School. The 3 core courses for the Certificate Programme are:

1. The Strategic HR Management module will equip HR and line managers to meet and triumph over the local and global demands of the new millennium. An absolute eye-opener for companies questioning the value of the HR function.
2. The Skills Development Module will equip companies to respond to the national context of legislation and policy. (In April 2000 the Skills Development levy becomes payable.) The module will enable you to implement strategies, build an organisational learning culture and design and implement effective learning systems - amongst other important objectives.
3. Achieving Outstanding Performance ensures that all employees' efforts are aligned with the objectives of the organisation.

The core courses will be run during 2000. As they say in the classics, only a bad workman blames his tools. As we say at WBS, you can only blame human error on a lack of HR expertise.

Closing date: December 15

For more information contact Jackie Mthembu

Tel: (011) 488-5594 Fax: (011) 643-2336

E-mail: mthembuj@zeus.mgmt.wits.ac.za

Website: www.wits.ac.za/wbs



UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND  
**WITS BUSINESS SCHOOL**  
AFRICA'S PREMIER BUSINESS SCHOOL



# Redressing the disadvantages of the past (54)

David Robbins

**T**he Higher Education Amendment Bill, which allows the minister of education to appoint administrators in the place of vice-chancellors at badly run universities, was passed this week by the National Assembly and is due to go to the National Council of Provinces for consideration.

Educationists speculate that once it's enacted, the vice-chancellors of two historically disadvantaged universities (HDUs) are likely to be out of a job: the universities of the North and Transkei. The ministry has been trying to solve serious problems of mismanagement at both institutions for more than a year.

The problems at these two universities are not unique, and some of their troubles likely stem from their origin. HDUs are those institutions established as non-white universities in terms of 1959 legislation segregating universities and those built in the early 1970s to service "homeland" populations.

There are 10 HDUs, all directly emanating

from the policies of apartheid and separate development. In this sense they are undoubtedly "historically disadvantaged": there wasn't really any rationale for their existence other than a discredited political one.

In consequence, they were often inappropriately positioned away from the main cultural centres, making it difficult to create an atmosphere conducive to higher learning. They were also inadequately resourced — many didn't have proper libraries — and the combination of this with inappropriate locations often gave rise to acute staffing problems.

These deficiencies were offset to an extent by the previous regime's anxiety to keep its separate development institutions operational, at least on a superficial level. What happened underneath this level in the academic and administrative engine rooms of the HDUs was of far less concern. Nevertheless, the apartheid restrictions on movement kept the HDUs reasonably well provided with students.

Since 1994, however, more natural market forces have come into play, leaving these insti-



Still relevant: Cecil Abrahams (right), shown here at his inauguration, believes HDUs have an important role to play in higher education. PHOTOGRAPH: RODGER BOSCH

tutions in direct competition with the established or historically white universities (HWUs) in towns and cities. This has resulted in diminishing student numbers at the HDUs, difficulties with retaining staff and huge financial problems caused partly by students not paying fees and partly by financial administrations creaking under the new and largely indifferent market conditions.

Crudely put: no apartheid godfather was any longer remotely interested in whether an institution survived or collapsed.

"Obviously, the HDUs sought redress after they had joined the privileged historically white universities, the HWUs, in a common university sector after 1994," observes Professor Cecil Abrahams, vice-chancellor of the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and chair of the Historically Disadvantaged Universities Forum.

"In particular, we sought financial redress from the new democratic state, but this has largely been denied," says Abrahams. "We also wanted a proper reallocation of resources, but this hasn't happened either. There was the hope that having been on the right side of the struggle — as many HDUs prominently were — we would reap some dividend after 1994.

"We had been in the frontline, in many respects protecting the HWUs. But no dividends have come. Only competition. And I suppose the HDUs are now wanting to know what sort of priority they are being accorded within the higher education sector. Or are they simply seen as nuisance value?"

"Yes, of course, there are problems: on the finance and management sides especially, and also in terms of student unrest. But we believe we have important roles to play in our regions and nationally. The 'size-and-shape' debate must therefore be treated with great care. It's easy to destroy, but much more difficult to build up academic infrastructure again when the country needs it."

Abrahams isolates several key areas which need to be addressed to lessen the HDU/HWU division. The first is that addressing the under-preparedness of many South African students entering the university sector should be the responsibility of regional groupings of universities and not left for the HDUs to handle alone.

"There's been a lot of lip-service to this idea, but no action so far," remarks Abrahams of the situation in the Western Cape. "The established universities go for the cream; they are better equipped to do this. The funding formula favours high pass rates and postgraduate study.

"The HDUs are therefore at a major disadvantage because they receive higher proportions of under-prepared students, who take a

year longer to get a first degree, and then go on to postgraduate study at a much lower rate.

"The second is the ability of students to pay. Well-off middle-class students gravitate to the HWUs. The HDUs are left with students from disadvantaged communities who for obvious socio-economic reasons have less ability to pay. The result of this has been financial chaos in the HDUs.

"When the University of the Western Cape opened its doors to black students, many middle-class coloureds went instead to the University of Cape Town. And when we became a dual medium Afrikaans/English university, many more Afrikaans-proud coloureds went to Stellenbosch. These trends, understandably, have made the basic problems of financial viability more acute."

The question may be whether HDUs — some or all — are worth saving.

"I don't believe the size of the sector should change at all," Abrahams replies. "The reduction in student intake is temporary. When our schooling system improves, student intake will rise accordingly, and we'll need all the institutions we can lay our hands on.

"With regard to shape, I believe a great deal can be done. In the Western Cape, through the Adamastor Trust, the five tertiary institutions — three universities and two technikons — have come together and already there's some co-operation.

**F**or example in law, specific universities have taken specific specialities. UWC's is human rights law. There's a sharing of expertise in this area, and students are now coming on to our campus from both Stellenbosch and Cape Town.

"In dentistry there's a sharing of hospitals and lecturers, and all five institutions now have a common database-linked library service. The books of all five institutions are available to all, and the buying budget is now five times the size it was individually. Heavy equipment in some faculties is also being shared."

The solution, then, might be that simple: that the key to the problems generated by our past obsession with separateness might, in spite of the current tendency to competition over scarce students, at least in part lie in the vigorous development of sharing and co-operation.

The 10 HDUs are universities of the Western Cape, Durban-Westville, the North and Fort Hare. Homeland institutions are the universities of Venda, Bophuthatswana (now North-West) Transkei and Zululand. Add to that the "black" medical school, Medunsa, and the multi-campus of Vista University

## Postgraduate Research Opportunities

The Cape Technikon offers unique opportunities for graduates to improve their qualifications by undertaking practical, problem-solving research. Research at the Technikon is a continuation of the educational process, equipping graduates to contribute personally towards the development of the Western Cape.

The thrust of our multi-million rand, locally and internationally-sponsored research projects are clustered around:

- **Chemical Engineering:** Separations technology, Industrial effluents, Fluidisation, Modelling
- **Slurry Flow:** Turbulence flow and Theoretical models
- **Instrumentation**
- **Energy Technology:** Solar systems and Affordable appliance development
- **Biomedical Technology:** Monitoring treatments, Drug delivery systems, Community health
- **Tourism:** Market surveys, Impact studies, Tourism segmentation
- **Housing:** Community housing, Quality of life improvement, Edu-greening the urban environment
- **Nature Conservation:** Conservation planning, Veld & game management, Semi-arid (Karoo) vegetation, Greening of open spaces, Horticulture & Oceanography

### Research Opportunities for MTech & Doctoral Studies

For further details contact:

Prof. Ernst Uken, Director: Research Development.

Tel: (021) 460-3127 Fax: (021) 460 3701 E-mail: uken@cotech.ac.za



**Cape Technikon**

www.cotech.co.za



# and shape of things to come

(54) MAG 19-25/11/99

sector was immediately plagued with an essential disunity.

Those universities born of apartheid and separate development gravitated rapidly together into what is now called the historically disadvantaged university (H DU) group. The established universities, both English and Afrikaans, found themselves labelled the historically white or advantaged universities (HWUs or HAUs).

Some of the resulting tensions within the sector were embarrassing. Meetings of CUP had traditionally alternated between English and Afrikaans.

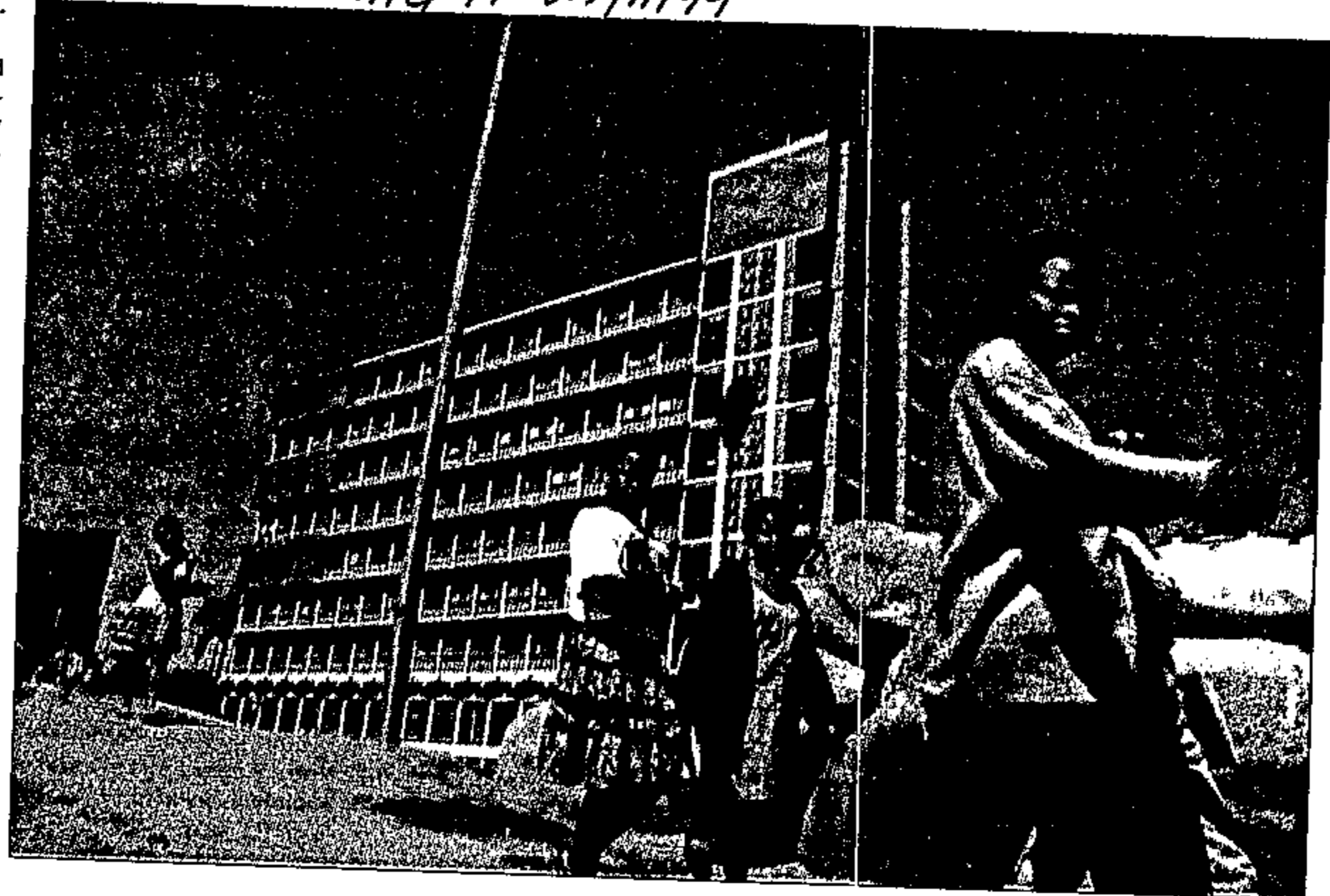
When the HDUs asked that English be used because it was the language most widely understood, some Afrikaans universities objected. In fact, they went to the expense of laying on simultaneous translation facilities rather than surrender the use of their language.

But such rigidities didn't last, even though their occurrence helped to cement the fundamental division. CUP meetings became tense affairs, and on the agendas there appeared the question of financial redress for the apparently underfunded and academically marginalised HDUs.

To its credit, the CUP (which has now changed its name to the South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association, or Sauvca) very quickly embarked on a process of transformation in an effort to reposition universities in the rapidly changing tertiary education terrain.

Yet divisions within the sector have remained. To begin with, the Ministry of Education listened with scant sympathy to the HDUs' requests for redress.

At the same time, questions were being asked



Debt-ridden: Historically disadvantaged institutions like the University of the North are crippled by a high level of non-payment of student fees. PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD

about the tertiary education sector as a whole. Nobody could argue that technical and vocational education should now become a primary focus, thus redressing the old imbalances between universities and technikons. But did this mean that there were too many universities as a result of apartheid's tendency to duplication?

Thus began the "size and shape" debate, based on the premise that the sector was in need of rightsizing and rationalisation. There was talk of closures and mergers, which the HDUs immediately saw as a threat to their continued existence.

After all the disadvantages they had suffered under the old order, the HDUs argued, were they now simply to be swallowed up by the HWUs which had so manifestly benefited under apartheid?

The debate has been fuelled by several factors. The first has been the severe financial difficulties afflicting many of the HDUs.

Widespread non-payment of student fees is one cause, and the introduction of the R390-million National Student Financial Aid Scheme, which in 1998 alone supported nearly 76 000 students, hasn't solved the problem.

Another cause is undoubtedly poor financial management.

Listen to what erstwhile education minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu had to say in an address to a Higher Education Stakeholders' Meeting in January this year:

"I must express my profound disquiet at the financial status of some of our institutions. The not insignificant resources allocated by the state, together with the physical and human resources, must be utilised efficiently and effectively.

"Too many institutions are running unacceptably high overdrafts. It has even come to our notice that, in one or two instances, annual budgets have not been formally approved by councils. This is not an acceptable basis for the running of institutions. In co-operation with the office of the auditor general, the Department of Education will be undertaking in-depth financial audits of some institutions."

The other major factor feeding into the "size-and-shape" debate has been the problem of declining student numbers at most HDUs. After 1994, higher education planning was premised on the idea of rapidly increasing student numbers. Not only has this increase not occurred in overall terms, but black students are more and more opting for the urban-based universities — the HWUs — and technikons. Much of this movement is into distance education opportunities being de-

veloped at historically Afrikaans universities.

So while the student population of the University of the Western Cape, for example, has declined from 14 500 in 1995 to little more than 9 000, Stellenbosch, Pretoria and the Free State are all reporting steady student growth rates. The average decline in student numbers at the HDUs is about 11% for 1999 alone.

(Student numbers at South Africa's biggest distance-learning institution, Unisa, decreased by 9% [103 389] in 1998.)

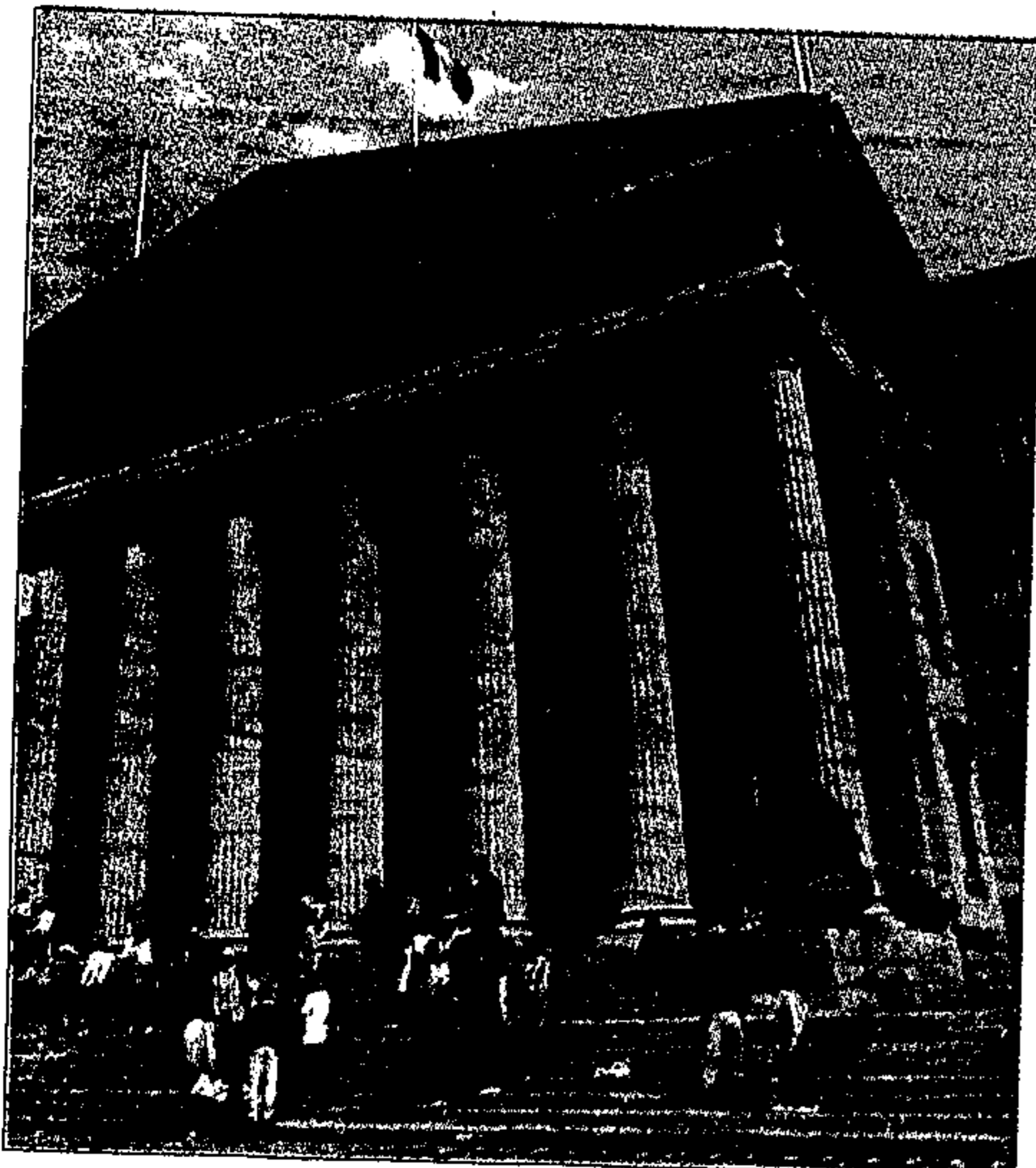
Recurring explanations for the current student drift are not particularly reassuring to the HDUs — that students are rejecting the HDUs as being a manifestation of apartheid inferiority, or that they are going where they can get the best education for their money. The geographical position of most HDUs, especially those in the old homelands, is too remote to attract good staff or to compete against the city-based institutions.

This situation is bedevilled by another reality, which is clearly shown in the following statistics supplied by Edusource. Although between 1994 and 1998 the number of students sitting for senior certificate examinations rose from 495 400 to 551 000, matric exemption passes declined from 69 000 to 71 600. Within this statistic, the number of people passing maths and science is also in decline. In 1995, 29 700 candidates achieved a higher-grade pass in maths and nearly 35 000 a higher-grade pass in physical science. Those figures had declined to 22 800 and 25 400 respectively by 1998. This means that the pool of raw material for universities is becoming smaller, a situation which increases the competition between them.

"It's a case of the survival of the fittest," admits University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele. Or as one Gauteng university official recently put it: "We see other universities very unambiguously as competitors. We're not state institutions pure and simple. If we depended on state money alone, we'd all be dead."

"We're all staring basic economic survival in the face, and in that sense we're competitors, each of us striving for an adequate slice of the higher education market."

The situation is made no easier by the current burgeoning of the private tertiary education sector.



Commercial success: The University of the Witwatersrand, built on the foundations of the 1895 School of Mines, achieved university status in 1922. PHOTO: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

# The size and shape of things to come

From PAGE 23

Private colleges are springing up thick and fast, all offering tempting courses and diplomas, and in some cases full degrees. For example, in Gauteng alone there are more than 30 institutions at which students can currently study for an MBA. A few of these opportunities are available through reputable British and other universities. Obviously, though, some of these private institutions are not as good as others, but most seem to be flourishing.

"The problem, in part," says Minister of Education Kader Asmal, "is that these private institutions are taking students and revenue away from our state-subsidised institutions. In the end I will have to decide: do we allow their unlimited establishment? What sort of registration system should we put in place? How do we monitor quality so that our people get value for money? And should we allow for the unlimited repatriation of profits?"

"What is certain, though, is that we will deal with all these issues by negotiation and agreement rather than by decree."

More pressure is coming the way of the universities from the country's expanded technikon sector. The Technikons Act of 1979 made provision for certain advanced technical colleges to be turned into full tertiary institutions on a par with polytechnics or institutes of technology in other parts of the world. Today, nearly 200 000 students are studying at South Africa's 15 technikons, many of which were established in the 1980s.

Initially there was an almost complete divide between universities and technikons, with the universities naturally enough assuming the superior position. Since 1994, however, the two classes of institution have been forced together by new policy imperatives.

Most notably, the South African Qualifications Authority Act of 1995 makes provision for a single national qualifications framework into which both universities and technikons are supposed to fit. This has helped to encour-

age co-operation, particularly in the matter of credits and transferability of students between the two classes of institution in a process now called "articulation".

**T**he technikon sector has grown fast, at nearly 9% a year between 1992 and 1998, although in 1999 this growth has been marginally reversed. At the same time, black admissions are soaring. In fact, with an annual growth rate of nearly 30%, black students now form the majority on most technikon campuses.

Professor Roy du Pré, executive director of the Committee of Technikon Principals, finds the rise of black students at these institutions remarkable.

"Understandably, Africans at first thought that here was an extension of Verwoerdian education policy, where blacks should be trained to do the manual work. But they soon realised that a technikon education was more relevant to the needs of the 'new' South Africa, and provided job-oriented technology education which gave a greater chance of employment than most university degrees."

Du Pré is forthright about the position of technikons in the overall scheme of a new unified tertiary sector. "We will be its backbone. The speed with which technology is changing, and the need for constant retraining within the workforce, will ensure that. It will also ensure the growth of the technikon sector. I don't know whether this will be at the expense of universities or not. I certainly think there should probably be 21 technikons and 15 universities, rather than the other way around. That would bring us more into line with the mix found elsewhere in the world."

"Should some universities be converted to technikons? Allow me to say that it is patently absurd that in some of the most rural and under-developed parts of the country apartheid has left us with universities, but not technikons. At this stage, South Africa's fundamental educational need is for job-oriented technical skills. Of course the universities are important. But we must be careful that we don't produce too many managers and not enough technically proficient workers."

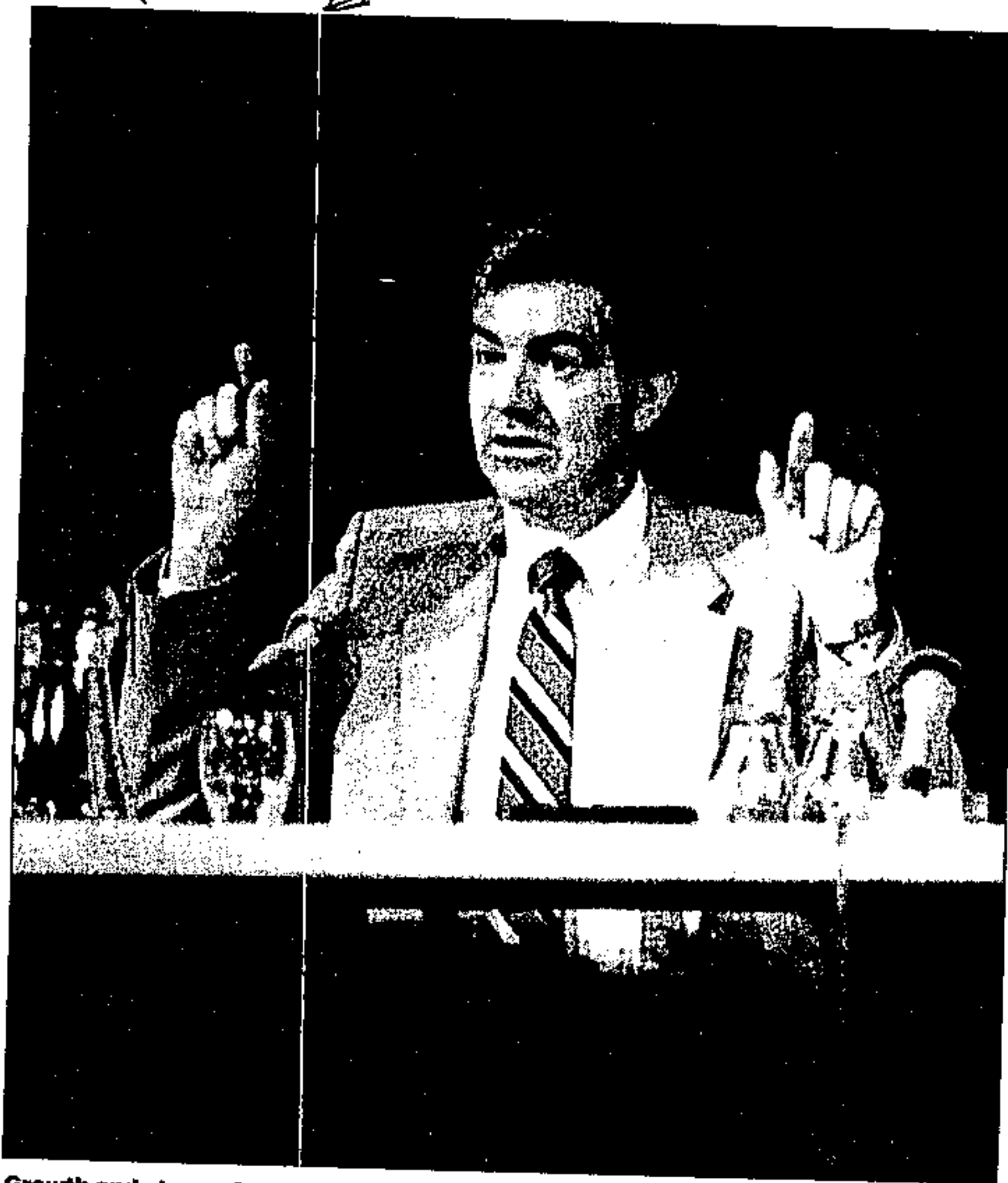
These words point all too clearly to the stresses in the university sector. But the sector cannot lightly be dismissed. Some of our institutions have world-class academic and research reputations, and superb facilities. Take Wits as a convenient example: its 16 libraries contain more than a million books, with database access to five million more.

Yet most universities are struggling for turf. Student numbers at universities have been in decline since 1996. Although black student numbers are increasing, the number of white students is in decline, as are the overall numbers.

In the latest Edusource update on the tertiary sector, which is scheduled for publication at the end of the month, Edusource director Monica Bott ascribes the over-all declining numbers at universities to:

- the shrinking pool of matric exemption school leavers;
- the inability of many potential students to afford the fees;
- the widespread clampdowns, especially at the HDUs, on non-paying students; and
- the increased competition from the private universities and colleges.

**B**ott believes that many thousands of white students from the state tertiary sector generally have found suitable opportunities in the private sector. Obviously many black students have also been seduced. Educor, a listed company on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange to which many private institutions are attached, has become one of the country's largest providers of private educa-



Growth and stress: According to Professor Colin Bundy, vice-chancellor of Wits, tertiary education is in 'ferment' rather than turmoil

tion. According to one of its subsidiaries, Educor is "at the forefront of a global trend towards technology-based training and education", and enrolments for 1998 topped 350 000. This figure obviously includes post-school certificate and diploma courses as well as full tertiary degrees.

The drop in enrolments makes it difficult for the sector to act in concert and, more importantly, makes "size and shape" into such a fraught debate. And the situation isn't going to get any easier, especially when the funding formula for tertiary institutions changes, probably in 2002.

Currently, the post-secondary education formula (known as Sapse) takes into account student numbers, study area, student pass rates or throughput and research output. No one knows in detail yet how the new formula will work. It seems clear, though, that some of the disparities between universities and technikons will be ironed out, the funding of research will almost certainly change and the avowed intention of using the new formula to steer the sector, influencing what is being taught, is still on the cards, but, according to some observers, only just.

The new arrangements will probably favour technikons the most, and the HDUs to some extent. Nevertheless, it's a safe bet to say that some universities will be further pressured by these arrangements. Already, their Sapse subsidy levels have been cut from about 80% to 60% of operating costs.

Coming on top of everything else — in particular the problem of student debt for non-payment of fees and faulty management systems — the financial pressures on all but the most focussed and successful universities could prove to be overwhelming. Already, at least half-a-dozen universities are in serious trouble. Fort Hare is R80-million in the red; the University of the Transkei, R60-million. By comparison, all but one of the country's technikons are currently operating in the black.

**I**t is tempting to speculate that these pressures will ultimately change the size and shape of South Africa's tertiary education sector more surely than any decree issued from the Ministry or Department of Education. What has come so far from Asmal can be found in the eighth of his nine education priorities spelled out in July.

"We must," he asserted, "implement a

rational, seamless higher education system that grasps the intellectual and professional challenges facing South Africans in the 21st century."

What must be abundantly clear to most observers of the system and its apartheid history is that South Africa does not have a rational and seamless tertiary system right now. The pain of getting the current multi-headed organism into this fundamentally new shape is considerable. But the task is not impossible.

Wits University's Bundy reminds us that "the emphasis since 1994 has been upon the creation, for the first time, of a single higher education system — planned, governed and funded as a single system. Now, the development of a more differentiated set of institutions is the crucial next phase."

"Our institutions have different histories, different geographical locations, different relations with their immediate communities, and different capacities. The notion of ferment embraces agitation and movement. It also holds out the promise, like the action of yeasts in baking a loaf or maturing a wine, of a transformation process that yields an end product richer, healthier and more exciting than the beginning of the process."

**Y**et the words of Sauvca's CEO, Plyush Kotecha, also demand attention. "What the sector needs more than anything right now is leadership. We all understand the policy of having one rational and seamless sector, and so on."

"But the crucial responsibility of managing the policy's implementation must now be squarely shouldered, and I believe this should be done by the ministry in engagement with all the major higher education players. We all need a healthy dose of political will. This is crucial if we are to transform and simultaneously protect the priceless resource, in facilities and staff, which the sector represents."

Finally, it is tempting to concur with the University of Cape Town's Ramphela when she says that the sort of tertiary education system we finally create will inevitably reflect the sort of society we want for the immediate future of this country. "Surely we will want to achieve excellence first and foremost as Africans, but always with our eyes focused on global realities. If we ever lose sight of either of these imperatives, we will most certainly become marginalised."

## UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA



### DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCES: (School of Social Sciences)

#### B.PolSci

**Admission:** Matriculation exemption and score of 11.

**Duration:** Three year bachelors degree programme. Full time and after hours.

#### SIX SPECIALIZATIONS ARE OFFERED:

- African Studies
- International Studies
- Political Analysis and Communication
- Policy Studies
- Politics, Philosophy, Economics and Law
- Security Studies

#### Post-graduate degree programmes:

Three career oriented, course work masters degree programmes are offered:

- Master in Diplomatic Studies (MDIPS)
- Master in Political Policy Studies (MPPS)
- Master in Security Studies (MSS)

**Admission:** Any basic university degree plus sufficient, applicable work experience or a four year honours degree in politics or a related field.

**Duration:** Two years part time. Residence in Pretoria not a requirement. These programmes are also offered as web-based telematic courses.

Additional information is obtainable from:  
Professor M E Muller at Tel: (012) 420 4066 / 2454  
Fax: (012) 420 3888 e-mail: mmuller@postino.up.ac.za  
Application for admission is obtainable from:  
The Registrar, University of Pretoria.

# 'An amazing achievement'

David Robbins

**A**t the last annual general meeting of the South African Universities Vice-Chancellors' Association (Sauvca), outgoing chair Dr Mamephela Ramphela declared that the various transformations within the association added up to "an amazing achievement".

Ramphela also remarked that CEO Piyushi Kotecha, a driving force behind much of the transformation processes, had inherited a 19th-century organisation when she was appointed in April 1998.

Not unduly harsh words, perhaps, for an organisation which had idled along in remarkably leisurely fashion for decades.

Only after 1994 did the need for transformation begin to be perceived.

The organisation, by then, com-

prised all 21 of South Africa's universities and was riven by the historically disadvantaged universities/historically white universities divide, and, equally seriously, was administered by a secretariat which had been left to its own devices for far too long.

It was in 1995 that thoughts turned actively towards finding an "authentic and reputable leadership role in the educational life of South Africa" for the organisation. The next step was to put these sentiments into action by engaging British educational academic John Fielden, whose report and recommendations appeared in 1996.

Fielden focused on the organisation's secretariat, and how it could be restructured to further the sentiments expressed in the new mission. The existing secretariat was seen as having a poor reputation and a limited range of functions compared

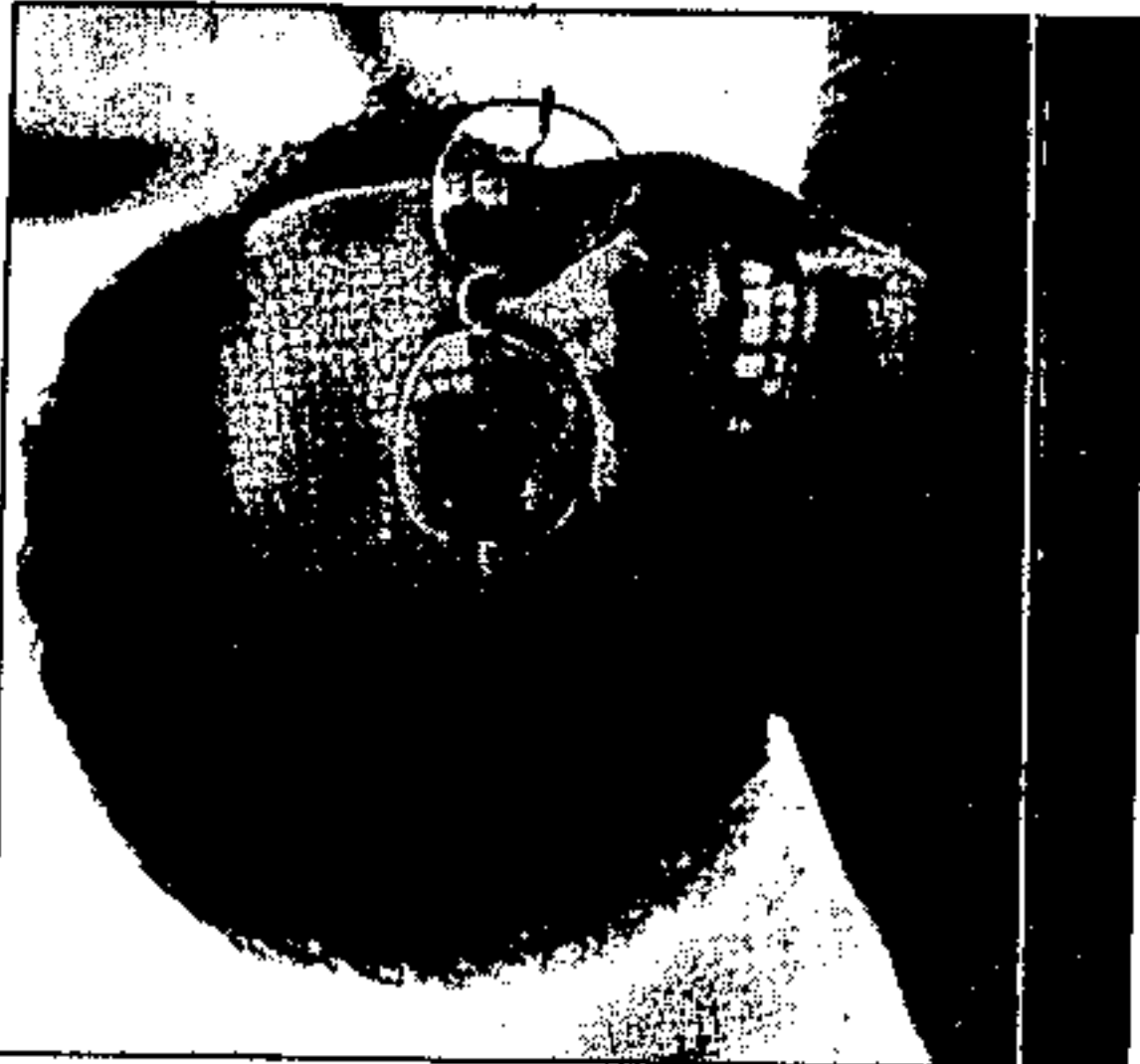
with its international counterparts.

These recommendations fed back into the transformation debate, ultimately resulting in the appointment of Kotecha as CEO. With the full involvement of the vice-chancellors, and through a series of important workshops and meetings in 1998 and early 1999, Sauvca finally came up with a strategic plan.

In this plan, the core functions for a restructured secretariat, namely policy analysis and research, academic affairs and internationalism, as well as leadership and management development, were spelled out.

In addition, the new strategy made provision for the agencies which had become attached to the secretariat — most notably the students' sports union and the tertiary education sector's purchasing consortium — to be unbundled.

Finally, because of proposed new legislation, the old Committee of



Impressed: Outgoing chair Dr Mamephela Ramphela complimented the South African Universities Vice-Chancellors' Association for its transformation, at the organisation's last annual general meeting

University Principals (CUP) would lose its statutory functions. The new CUP/Sauvca body should therefore realign its secretariat in readiness for the formation of a Section 21 company with a CEO with wide powers.

Although the strategic plan was unanimously adopted, the divisions organisation out of the past,

between the historically disadvantaged universities and historically white universities, illustrative of much wider systemic problems across the whole tertiary sector, didn't disappear.

Nevertheless, significant strides have been made, at both the main-body level and secretariat level, to drag the organisation out of the past.

# Vista faces court action

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

**V**ista University is facing court action by a student for irregularities and unfair treatment.

According to law student Magoshi Mamehla, officials at Vista's Mamelodi campus unlawfully charge a R30 fee for student cards, although university regulations say students are supposed

to be issued with them at no extra cost.

Mamehla's lawyer, Jerry Musi, said his client, who paid a registration fee of R635, refused to pay the additional fee as it was contrary to university regulations. As a result, "my client has been subjected to prejudice", Musi said.

Mamehla was denied access to the library and study materials, and was not allowed to write examinations because he did not have a student card.

In papers served on Vista's deputy vice-chancellor (academic), Professor Kingston Nyamapfene, Musi said the institution should issue a student card to Mamehla at no extra cost and arrange for special supplementary examinations.

He added that the R30 fee should be invalidated on the grounds that it is illegal. "Our client [Mamehla] further instructs us that as a result of the

failure of the university to attend to this matter promptly, he has suffered psychological and emotional distress which necessitates that he should consult specialists for counselling," he wrote in the papers served on Nyamapfene.

Mamehla intends filing a civil suit against the institution asking R55 000 in compensation.

When Mamehla registered at the Mamelodi campus on February 26 1999, he went to collect his student card but officials told him he had to pay the fee. He says he did not pay because it was contrary to the University Calendar of 1999.

He wrote to Professor CT Keto, deputy vice-chancellor (administration), to complain. The Vista chief financial officer, then NS Cronje, instructed Mamehla officials to "issue student identity cards to all students at no extra costs to the student". This was not done.

Mamehla then laid a complaint with the Office of the Public Protector, Selby Baqwa. He did not resolve the problem.

According to Mamelodi campus principal Professor M Mboya, the decision to ask R30 from students was agreed upon between the campus management and student leaders.

# Universities 'not in terminal decline'

(54)  
Minister of Education Kader Asmal tells David Robbins why he believes tertiary education is going through a malaise, not a crisis

"I'm going to shock you," says Minister of Education Kader Asmal, "by saying that I don't think there's a crisis in South Africa's third-level education sector. It's certainly not in a state of terminal decline, not like certain African systems elsewhere on the continent.

"The past is like an albatross around the neck of higher education. I would even be prepared to say the sector has a fundamental malaise that requires a significant intervention. Rather than being paralysed by this, though, we should be asking where are the good things in the existing system and then building on them."

At the heart of the problems facing the sector, he says, is the distorting legacy of the apartheid past. "Nevertheless I believe we have the framework legislation in place to establish a worthwhile and relevant education system. Obviously, the third-level institutions have a crucial role to play, particularly in terms of their capacity to relate to the needs of the economy. That's why the rational use of resources in this sector is so critical.

"There are two traps along this path of rational use into which I refuse to fall. The first is set by those who say our universities in particular are failing us. They aren't. The idea that transformation equals revolutionary upheaval is wrong.

"What we are doing is going through an often agonising reappraisal of institutional roles in our new democratic situation. The second trap is to be tempted to believe those people within the sector who seem determined to dress up self-interest, whether in the historically disadvantaged universities [HDUs] or historically white universities [HWUs], in the guise of noble ideals.

"The case for third-level education hasn't always been self-evident. There was an emerging view not so long ago that too much was being spent. Another view said too little was being spent, and that large cash injections should be made at certain institutions. At the moment, 14% of the total education budget is devoted to the tertiary level. That's probably about right. But the key question is: are we getting real social and economic value for this expenditure?"

"That is why I speak of a rational use of the

sector as a whole. Rationalisation will not mean the closure of institutions, not even large-scale mergers. Rather, it will depend on a new set of questions being asked at institutional level, the main one being: where are this institution's areas of most logical development?"

In everything he says, the minister appears to reject the simplistic divisions between the HDUs and HWUs.

"Some of the HDUs have submitted excellent three-year rolling plans which map out the future in a realistic way. Other plans have appeared extremely skeletal. One of the most obvious differences which separates these two categories of institution is that the HWUs have over the years developed superb middle-level management expertise; and everyone knows that if middle management works, the institution works. What apartheid never allowed was a similar development in the HDUs.

**'There are some within the higher education sector who use the term quality as a buzzword. It's sometimes used to protect the status quo'**

"Some people are saying that our so-called HDUs are in total crisis. I don't necessarily agree. There are cases of severe financial problems, certainly, and there are cases of financial investigation. Some institutions are running overdrafts to the level of 65% of their annual budgets. This is totally unacceptable; and I must emphasise that nobody is going to bail out these institutions.

"What we have done, however, is to work with them, and also to suggest amendments to the Higher Education Act which will allow the ministry to appoint interim administrators at institutions in financial trouble.

"But I don't agree with the idea of total crisis. There isn't a disaster just around the corner. To the contrary, there are huge opportunities. By dealing candidly with the consequences of apartheid, we can get to the root of the administrative and educational problems involved. What we want is value for money, in other words real quality. Incidentally, there are some within the higher education sector who use the term, quality as a buzzword. It's sometimes used to protect the status quo, and obviously we can't go along with that either."

Asmal insists that an "integrated" tertiary education sector should be the goal. Institutions should co-operate with each other, particularly at a regional level, to reduce unnecessary programme duplication and to build academic and administrative capacity. This means that all universities should *not* be trying to do the same thing, as had been necessary under apartheid.

"This brings us back," he says, "to the central question which individual institutions should be asking themselves: where can we most usefully develop to ensure a niche in our region and in the sector as a whole?"

MTG 19-25/11/99

# Wits takes restructuring road, potholes and all

BD 25/11/99

Classes are being moulded to serve broad SA and southern African needs, writes Primarashni Pillay

WITS University's plan to restructure its academic programmes is a response to the education ministry's requirement that universities should avoid course duplication and serve national economic and development needs.

The university intends to reduce the number of its faculties from nine to six and its 99 departments will be trimmed to between 30 and 40. Wits announced these plans yesterday.

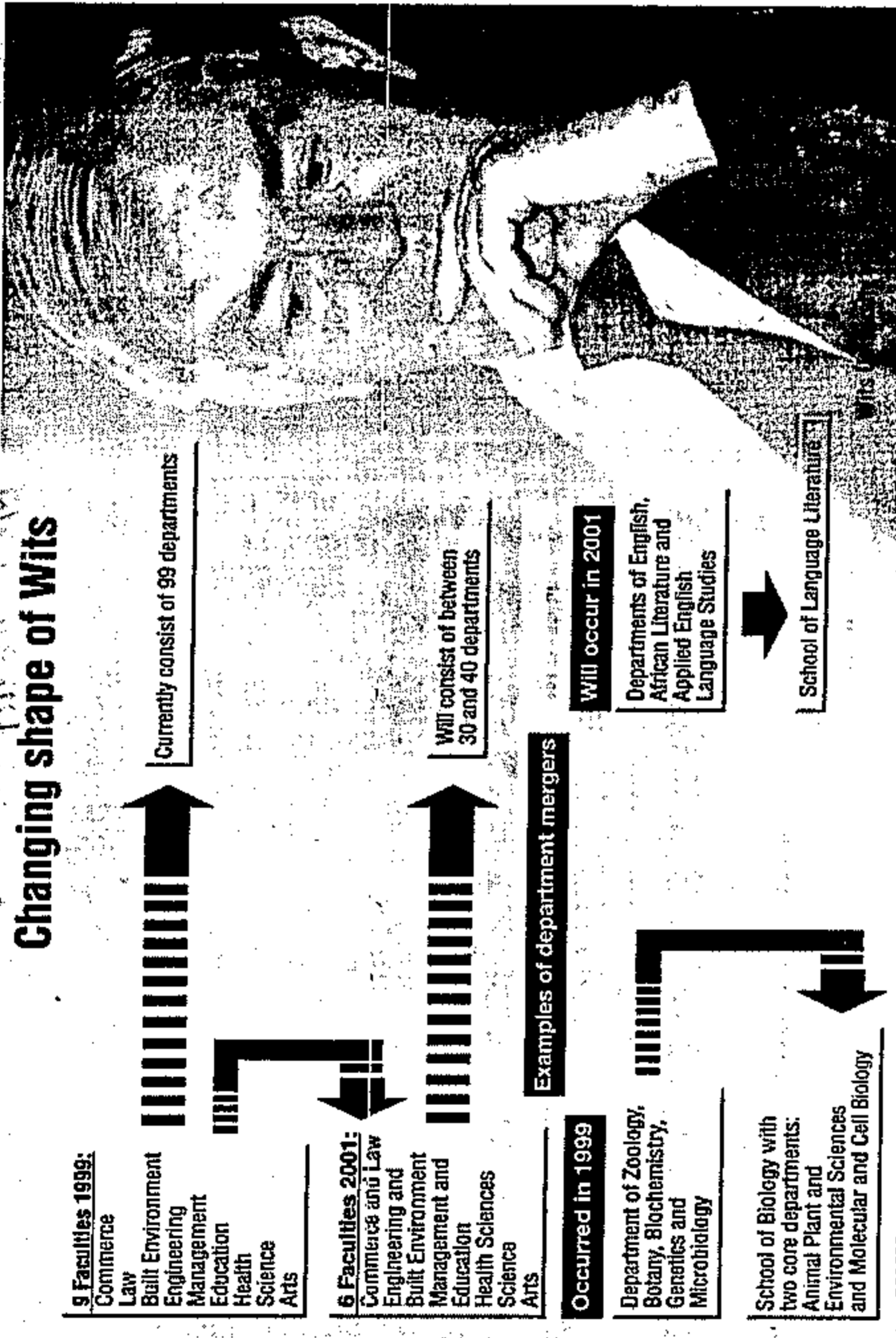
The universities of Natal and Cape Town have already started a restructuring process; other universities are yet to follow.

Natal University announced in 1997 that it intended shedding 600 posts over five years and reducing the number of faculties from 14 to seven or eight.

The University of Cape Town announced last year that its undergraduate degrees were to undergo an overhaul and that students could take interdisciplinary courses so that they would be better prepared for the workplace.

Mary Scholes, associate professor of Wits University's department of animal, plant and environmental sciences, which falls under the newly formed school of biology, says that the new faculties will be better resourced and will offer career-orientated disciplines.

The school, which is a result of 18 months of planning, has two core departments — animal, plant and environmental services, and molecular biology. It replaces the departments of zoology, botany, biochemistry, ge-



Graphic: KUREN DAVID. Source: WITS UNIVERSITY

For example, the zoology department taught genetics. So did the genetics department.

A benefit of the rationalisation is that knowledge will be imparted in a coherent way and

region, Scholes says.

Wits vice-chancellor Colin Bundy says that there may be job losses and that it is too early to predict how many people could be affected.

The restructuring will also bring with it a devolution of power to faculties "that will be empowered to make rapid strategic decisions", says Scholes.

A few years ago most of the Wits student population was white, but today more than 50% of its students are black.

The university is desperately trying to shrug off a perception that it is exclusively white — a notion that may be reinforced by its staff composition.

The Wits academic staff is about 80% white. Less than 10% of its professors are black and nearly 90% of its senior lecturers are white.

In recent weeks the university has faced media coverage that centred on allegations of racism.

Black academic Peter Karungu and a colleague were found guilty of misconduct after they refused to mark economics exam papers last year.

Karungu alleged that four white lecturers, who had not taught the subject, had been given preference to set the exams while he and another black academic had been excluded.

Following this dispute, human resources director Sybil Ngcobo resigned — apparently out of frustration over the university's inability to draw and retain

black staff, sources said. Ngcobo last week denied this was the reason for her resignation.

There is a perception among some black staff that while the top management is progressive, some senior academics act as roadblocks to change.

Bundy says that R11m has been set aside to fund 20 junior lectureships that will be awarded to black post-graduate students. He says the students, who will be doing their masters degrees or PhDs next year and in 2001, will be awarded three-year contracts to "come in as apprentice academics" while they complete their studies and get exposure to teaching and attending conferences.

He says Wits is trying to grow its own "timber". "There is a relatively small pool of highly trained black academics that is being lost to other sectors, including government."

Wendy Orr, who was appointed three months ago to tackle transformation at Wits, says the university has started a programme to establish what problems staff are experiencing.

Staff discussions are being held on "what conditions make it difficult for some people to work (at Wits) and how can people feel comfortable?"

"Once we have identified the problems, we will start to look at solutions."

Following this, Orr says, there will be diversity training efforts, team-building exercises and programmes that embrace different cultures that will be tailored to fit departments.

## Wits University to shed faculties in big revamp

Primarashni Pillay

WITS University is to undergo a huge shake-up, with nine faculties shrinking to five or six — a move which could result in job losses and the closure of some departments.

Wits vice-chancellor Colin Bundy said yesterday the university had 99 academic departments under the nine faculties and it intended to reduce this number to between 30 and 40.

Plans to rationalise the structures were aimed at avoiding unnecessary duplication, Bundy said. The new faculties and departments would be "better resourced", he said.

Bundy said the university had to take "tough decisions" based on finance. Several universities are under financial pressure, with student numbers dwindling and an increased movement to the technician sector. A low student intake means a lower government subsidy and less income from fees.

Wits's restructuring is part of a trend occurring in the higher education sector, for instance at Natal University.

Bundy said the faculties of commerce, law, built environment, engineering, management, education, health, sciences and arts would be merged under arts, commerce and law, engineering and built environment, health sciences, management and education, and science.

The new structure would entail a devolution of power from the executive management and faculties would be able to make quicker decisions.

"We do not have figures... but there could be possible job losses," Bundy said. Issues like student numbers, economic viability and the academic aspects of courses would be examined. "If a course is academically worthwhile and it has few students, it will be cross-subsidised."

Bundy said questions needed to be raised over how many university departments in Gauteng "should be teaching Icelandic, for example". It made sense to have regional co-operation in the teaching of certain subjects.

Bundy said the process could evoke anxiety that long-standing academic courses could lose their identity and smaller disciplines "could be blurred", but mergers of departments would not jeopardise the quality of courses.

BD 25/11/99 Restructuring road: Page 2

# Technikon's six officials reinstated

By Paul Letsoalo

**E**DUCATION Minister Kader Asmal has ordered Technikon Northern Gauteng to reinstate, with immediate effect, its rector and five senior officials, who were suspended earlier this year after allegations of financial mismanagement.

The rector, Professor George Lenyai, vice rector (administration and finance) Mr Alph Mashego, director of registration Mr H Shubani, deputy director of maintenance Mr M Ngomo, head of transport Mr W Mapetha and head of protection services Mrs RG Sebothoma were suspended in March pending the outcome of an investigation by the auditor-general into alleged irregularities.

More than 500 students boycotted classes earlier this year demanding the resignation of the rector and the suspension of the five officials.

The students claimed that the officials had misused R600 000.

After consultation with all necessary

stakeholders, the council announced the suspensions with immediate effect.

At a recent special meeting Asmal said: "It is unacceptable for any individual ... to be suspended for more than three months without the finalisation of the ... disciplinary or other proceedings."

Asked what took the technikon so long before the finalisation of the disciplinary proceedings, TNG media liaison officer Mr Tebogo Tabane said the institution received the report from the auditor-general only last month.

He said Lenyai and Mashego were cleared of any mismanagement. The four officials would face a disciplinary committee after they were found to have allegedly misused the institution's funds.

Asmal's spokesman Mr Bheki Khumalo said the council meeting resolved to reinstate Lenyai and Mashego immediately and to institute disciplinary action against members of the staff implicated in the auditor-general's report for clear breaches of the criminal or civil law.

The council also resolved that a new council be elected by the end of January.

# Wits unveils plan for restructuring

By Siphiwe Mpye (54)

**P**LANNED academic and support services restructuring at the University of the Witwatersrand will have wide-ranging implications as far as representativity of academic staff, administrative efficiency and job descriptions are concerned.

Wits vice chancellor Professor Colin Bundy and his deputy, Professor Letitia Patel, outlined the changes at a media briefing this week.

Bundy said the academic restructuring, prompted by changes in higher education and in the "world around us", would involve the condensing of Wits' nine faculties to about six bigger

units, with academic departments also being changed.

Bundy acknowledged the fact that the black academic staff was poorly represented at senior level and attributed this to the legacy of apartheid and identified it as a national trend. He also noted the lure of better salaries in government and the private sector.

The salary problem, however, would be addressed at junior level where 20 postgraduate students will, over three years, be recruited into junior lectureship positions, where they will be trained and mentored with a view to their growing within the institution.

The Support Services Review, as is required by the Labour Relations Act, to start talks with the unions and staff associations. We have to look at the reasons for change first. Thereafter all parties need to propose possible ways to approach it and then discuss the different proposals," said Patel.

approach this change.

"The senate mandated the executive, as is required by the Labour Relations Act, to start talks with the unions and staff associations. We have to look at the reasons for change first. Thereafter all parties need to propose possible ways to approach it and then discuss the different proposals," said Patel.

Sowetan 26/11/99



NATIONAL

Primarashni Pillay

THE SA Students' Congress (Sasco) called yesterday on government and the private sector to contribute more funds towards student financial aid.

This was in response to the Tertiary Education Fund of SA (Tefsa) revealing in its annual report that about 67 600 students at universities and technikons received study loans totalling R394.5m from the fund for the 1998 academic year.

Tefsa was founded in 1991 to facilitate funding for historically disadvantaged students who could not afford to study at uni-

# Student body calls on business for funds

ED 26/11/99 (E4)

## Tertiary Education Fund of SA, which relies on govt and donors, assisted 67 600 university and technikon students last year

universities and technikons. It relies on contributions from government and local and foreign donors and has assisted about 173 000 students with study loans.

In recent years, Tefsa has been administering the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, to which government allocated

R300m last year and R390m this year.

Tefsa uses this money for grants to universities and technikons which then allocate study loans to needy students. It is responsible for the loan recovery process from students and last week received statutory powers for this purpose, after

President Thabo Mbeki signed the National Student Financial Aid Scheme Act.

Meanwhile, Sasco secretary-general Iomo Khoza said: "while we appreciate government's contribution to Tefsa, it is still not sufficient. One of the underlying reasons for a decline in student numbers at universities

and technikons is that many students can't afford the fees."

Khoza said business needed to contribute to the fund. He appealed to government to work on making community service among graduates compulsory so "the resources that are invested in students will be ploughed back into the community".

However, education ministry spokesman Bheki Khumalo defended government's contribution to Tefsa, saying it was addressing human resource issues. Khumalo said 14% of the total education budget went into the higher education sector, which meant that government spent about R4bn a year on the

subsidisation of students.

Meanwhile, the Tefsa report says R266m was allocated to universities for loans to students last year, while R127m was granted to technikons.

University of the North made the most loan awards from the fund (5 040) in the university sector, while Pretoria Technikon

made the most awards (3 619) in the technikon sector.

Universities and technikons also allocate some of their own funds to student financial aid.

Tefsa converts up to 40% of original loans into non-repayable bursaries if students perform well in the subjects for which they registered. It recovers the loans from students when they start work and earn a minimum annual salary of R25 500.

Tefsa board chairman Naledi Pandor said in the report that the pass rate for students who received loans from 1995 to last year ranged from 71% to 76%.

# Pace faces financial crisis

(54) By STEVE DLAMINI

THE first community-based school in Soweto is facing serious financial problems as the fees paid by parents are not enough to pay administrative costs and teachers' salaries.

Pace Community College in Jabulani has now resorted to begging for funds.

The 33 teachers and administrators at Pace have not been paid for three months and some are thinking of jumping ship.

This is despite the fact that only 11 percent of parents do not pay school fees because they cannot afford it.

The financial problems at Pace started after its financial lifeline was cut off by its major donor, the American Chamber of Commerce.

The American Chamber made the establishment of the school possible with a major donation in 1981, with the aim of bringing good quality education to black pupils in Soweto.

Pace has depended on the chamber for funding since then, but this lifeline was cut in 1994 following the first national democratic general elections.

Pace principal Vusi Nkumane said it had not been possible since September to pay salaries to staff.

The teachers would also not be able to receive their year end bonuses if the school failed to raise the necessary funds.

Nkumane said they had insufficient funds to manage and run the school since the withdrawal of funding.

"We started to feel the pinch in 1995," he says.

"When I took over as principal from Fanyana Mazibuko last year, the funds had already dried up.

"I was not aware of the situation," he says.

Nkumane says the school is doing a good job of educating pupils, compared with other schools in Soweto.

The school achieved a 90 percent pass rate and six distinctions last year, despite the financial problems.

"We cannot shut down this brilliant school because of finan-



TEACHING ON BORROWED TIME . . . Pace College principal Vusi Nkumane needs financial help  
Picture: Mpho Mphotho

cial problems.

"This is why we appeal to members of the community to help us," he says.

Tendani Mulangaphuma, a teacher at the school, said although funds were a serious problem, most of the teachers were committed to performing their duties.

"We are at a very critical stage. The pupils are busy with exams. We are committed to achieving good results," he says.

Mulangaphuma said donations would motivate teachers even further.

"Donations will not only help pay my salary, it's also for a good cause. It will help us prevent the school from collapsing."

However, he says the school is not waiting for things to happen.

"We try to raise funds on our own. It's not my job description, but it's for a good cause."

Lekgau Mathabathe, chairman of the school board of trustees, told City Press the school had increased fees from R2 400 to R3 000, but the fees paid by 455 pupils could not match the chamber's funding.

"When the chamber withdrew its support and the government cut down on subsidies to private schools, the school had to use the money in reserve to cover costs.

"The money which remained wasn't enough to pay the teachers' salaries," Mathabathe said.

He said the school would have to increase the fees to be equal to other private schools in the city.

"We realise parents in Soweto aren't in a position to afford R8 000 school fees, as other private schools charge," he said.

Any business concern wishing to assist the school can contact principal Vusi Nkumane at 932-5381.

# Universities in trouble

**W**HEN a new political order came about five years ago, most people hoped that the conditions at black tertiary institutions would improve. These institutions previously suffered utter neglect.

This neglect – in financial resources, leadership acumen, research and academic capability – formed part of a grand plan for black disadvantage and underdevelopment.

The most recent problem faced by these institutions has been a decline in student numbers. Black students are voting with their feet. They are turning to white institutions.

It is estimated that the enrolment of African students at black universities fell by 7 000 (nine percent) this year. In fact, some sources put the figure at 22 000 between 1995 and 1999 (a 20 percent decline).

It is difficult to say what led to this decline. Is it because black universities have to compete with the more powerful white universities for declining numbers of black matriculants with exemptions?

Or is it because of the not-so-good image most black institutions have acquired as a result of allegations of corruption and instability?

On the one hand, it can be argued that the movement of black students can be seen as a normalisation of a system that was previously designed to confine black students to ethnic enclaves created by apartheid architects.

But whatever the case, the massive decline in black student numbers has created major financial difficulties for black institutions.

In addition, most of these universities find themselves with financial problems – not only because of poor financial management but because they cater largely for poor students.

The result is massive student debts which in turn have a crippling effect on such institutions.

Secondly, black universities are faced with other serious problems. Six of the 10 black universities are currently under investigation for alleged financial malpractices.

As if these problems are not enough, most black institutions are characterised by rapidly changing leadership. On average black universities have three vice-chancellors in six years.

But why all these problems? Firstly, most of these institutions were not well-managed, even before 1994. Most of them did not have professional financial and administrative systems.

Recent market research also shows that most employers still prefer graduates from formerly white institutions at the expense of those from black institutions.

The claim is that black institutions have inferior academic and research programmes. This subtle corporate sector bias and manipulation influences the choices made by students.

(54)  
Black students are turning to white varsities, adding to the financial problems of the already cash-strapped black tertiary institutions, writes **Console Tleane**



**Black students attending lectures at Rand Afrikaans University.**

PHOTO: CLEMENT LEKANYANE

In fact, most black institutions have very little research capacity precisely because they are discriminated against by research consumers (corporate and public sector).

Perhaps not enough is being done by the Department of Education to address the problems and needs of black institutions. These institutions need focused intervention from the department.

In order to raise their standards, these institutions require a lot more resources. However, the funding formula inherited from the previous regime continues to favour white institutions (it will only be phased out in 2002).

According to this funding method, institutions are funded according to, among other things, the head count of their students, pass rates and research output.

Clearly this method disadvantages black institutions. It does not take into account historical inequalities. In fact, it perpetuates inequality.

Also, not enough has been done to transform these institutions. A narrow understanding of transformation emerged which saw vice-chancellors aligned to the apartheid state replaced with progressive vice-chancellors.

A case of replacing the head while leaving the body. Not enough has been done to effect transformation of the whole system.

Complete transformation will mean phasing in progressive personnel. Beyond that, and more

importantly, proper transformation will mean the total overhaul of administrative systems.

A lot of reorientation, training and retraining is necessary, both administrative and academic, with the aim of developing a system that not only works but is productive and sustainable.

Failure to do this has resulted in black institutions being unable to reposition themselves for the challenges that came along with the political transition.

What does the future hold for such institutions? Some speculate that the most troubled institutions will be closed. This is unlikely to happen – their closure will be politically sensitive and symbolically problematic.

Instead, there is likely to be a political initiative to encourage more cooperation between black and white institutions. Already, some institutions have started regional collaboration.

While indeed a good move, the real motive is economic – cost-saving. Under the punishing climate of fiscal austerity, it makes sense to encourage black institutions to enter into partnerships with white institutions.

In this way the Government will not have to increase subsidies for black institutions in areas such as research, libraries and laboratories.

Again, given their present inability to expand their post-graduate programmes, black universities are likely to be encouraged to transfer their graduates to white universities for post-graduate study.

In this way black universities may gradually be reduced to a level similar to that of American liberal arts universities that serve as feeder institutions for the more prestigious and elite institutions.

While the current condition of black institutions may improve, it is highly unlikely that their status – both in capacity and financial standing – will ever match those of white universities.

We may well ask: what happened to the rhetoric about equity and redress? Unless more is done the future of black institutions may not be that encouraging.

The challenge facing the Government and the education fraternity is to improve the condition of black institutions to such a level that the public does not make choices on the basis of perceived or real inequalities.

Instead, choices should be made purely on the basis of personal preference.

(The writer is an independent education analyst based in Pretoria.)

(74)  
**University suspends 5**  
 ST 6/12/99

THE vice-chancellor of the University of the North, Dr Biki Minyuku, and the chairman of its council, Benny Boshieko, were suspended on Friday after an internal inquiry into problems at the institution, writes CORNIA PRETORIUS.

The principal of the university's QwaQwa campus, O O Dipeolu, its registrar, H S May, and finance head, F D Tseane, were also suspended following a probe into alleged mismanagement.

The council said there were also "serious allegations" of "criminal conduct" at both the main campus and the QwaQwa satellite campus.

(179) (74)  
 CP 5/12/99  
**New database for learners**

BY STEVE DLAMINI

SOUTH Africans will no longer have to carry large piles of curricula vitae in the new millennium.

Thanks to the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), a statutory body established by Parliament, who launched the new national learners' records database in Pretoria on Thursday.

The database, which will allow all South Africans access to their qualifications records at a central point, was funded by the Canadian government to the tune of R13,5 million to make the database possible.

Mulaolo Mulaudzi, SAQA's spokesman, said each learner's record will be "confidential" and can be accessed only by the learner, or with his authorisation through a code.

"The system will be linked to all tertiary institutions. Once a student registers, their names will immediately appear on our database. It will state the course the student is registered for and the completion date. It will also state what qualifications the learner has already acquired."

Mulaudzi said the database would be of vital importance, and not only for learners.

"It will be vital for employers, learning institutions and community organisations. Once the entire system is functional, SA would have set an international best practice benchmark in the recording of qualifications.



**CVs ON RECORD** ... Samuel Isaacs and Mulo Mulaudzi, both from the South African Qualifications Authority

standards and learning achievements," he said.

Among the dignitaries who attended the launch was the Canadian High Commissioner, Lucie Edwards.

(74)  
**3 top Varsity men suspended**

BY DE WEI POTGIETER

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR of the University of the North, Professor Biki Minyuku, the chairperson of the University Council, Benny Boshieko, and the principal of the QwaQwa campus, Professor O O Dipeolu, have been suspended amid allegations of corruption and nepotism.

The university council also ordered that the registrar of the QwaQwa campus, Heavyston May, and the chief of finances, S Tseane, be summoned before a disciplinary committee.

The suspensions follow the release of a forensic audit into the QwaQwa campus which brought to light serious problems and financial irregularities at the university.

Dipeolu, a Nigerian, apparently made himself unpopular among his staff since his appointment in January 1997 with the way in which he appointed academics from other African countries. In the last two years he has appointed 22 academics from Nigeria, Ghana, the Congo, Uganda and Kenya. Most were appointed to senior positions.

Dipeolu earlier this year registered a company to collect money for the university. He allegedly used R3 million out of the university's reserve fund to create Uniqwa Ventures.

The company's first transaction was to buy a building in Phuthaditjaba for R1,5 million. Consultants appointed to determine how the building could best be used subsequently found it to be structurally dangerous.

Another allegation under investigation is that Dipeolu awarded the contract to manufacture new togas for the university choir to a family member in Nigeria who received R38 000 for it.

Minyuku, former chief executive officer of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, came under fire last month when education minister Kader Asmal gave an audience to a delegation of university staff. The delegation demanded Minyuku's resignation and asked Asmal to declare all management decisions by the vice-chancellor void, owing to a lack of consultation.

The so-called workplace forum also complained of Minyuku's alleged salary of R1,2 million.

George Negota, acting chairperson of the council, said yesterday the council has asked Asmal to appoint an interim administrator at the university.

Education minister Kader Asmal was informed about the suspensions this weekend and has been asked to appoint an acting administrator pending hearings for the senior officials.

# Asmal likely to wield the axe at a number of tertiary institutions

## Historically black schools face lack of funds and some are mismanaged, writes Gavin Lewis

(54) ED 7/12/99

THE Higher Education Amendment Bill, likely to be approved by the relevant portfolio committee this month, will empower Education Minister Kader Asmal to intervene to appoint administrators to run universities.

This will apply in cases where an audit reveals mismanagement, in particular financial mismanagement. Top of the list for such interventions are the University of the North and the University of Transkei.

Financial difficulties combined with managerial incompetence and student disruption provide ammunition for this overriding of the autonomy of tertiary institutions. However, this does raise disturbing questions about just how sacrosanct such autonomy is likely to be in the future.

Interim caretakers have recently been appointed for these reasons at Mangosuthu Technikon, Fort Hare University and Vaal Triangle Technikon.

This comes alongside repeated mutterings about rationalising the tertiary education sector on the grounds of economy. Soon after taking office Asmal went on record in condemning some universities as "appalling and wasteful" and dysfunctional.

Mergers between leading colleges of education and local universities have already started, reflecting government's desire for a rationalised tertiary sector that is less dependent on the state.

This extends from the rationalisation of courses to the possible closure of institutions, as has already happened with some colleges of education, the number of which has declined from 113 to 96 over the past four years.

Asmal has said that despite auditor-general investigations into six cash-strapped universities, government would try to sustain subsidy levels. What government would not do was allocate additional resources above the 14% of the national education budget set aside for higher education.

SA has 21 universities and 15 technikons. University enrolment has increased by 76% to 370 000 since 1985, and Technikon enrolment by 251% to 208 000.

The racial profile has also changed. For example, Wits University now has black learners making up 60% of its student population, and 160 000 of the Technikon total are black students. The number of whites enrolled at public tertiary institutions has fallen from 229 000

in 1993 to 187 000 today — a problem in that universities depend heavily on student fees, which white students are more likely to be able to pay.

It is no coincidence that during the same period the private tertiary sector has grown rapidly.

Among the tertiary institutions in deep trouble are the Medical University of SA and the universities of the Transkei, Fort Hare, the Northwest, Zululand and the North — all historically disadvantaged black universities.

Their student numbers are dropping as students move to what they perceive as better formerly white institutions, while their accumulated student debt is closing in on the R1bn mark.

This is a product not just of student poverty but of weak financial controls and management. Thus Fort Hare, where funding rose from R44.5m in 1992/3 to R94.5m in 1996/7, over the same period moved from a surplus of R11.3m to a deficit of R24.4m.

Yet the same institutions are paying six-figure salaries to their vice-chancellors, among the highest such packages in the country.

While it is sometimes said that the historically disadvantaged universities have a poorer student population to draw on, there is a national student financial aid scheme to support academically successful but financially strapped students. It has been allocated about R1.76bn since 1994, assisting more than 264 000 students.

Action will clearly be taken to close some tertiary institutions entirely. The former "homeland" universities are first in the line of fire.

None of the tertiary institutions, however, will be unaffected, with rationalisation already well under way and speeded on by the dual pressures of racial equity and encouraging students to work for qualifications in demand in the workplace.

Financial pressures will also remain to encourage universities to find alternative sources of revenue apart from the state.

Under President Thabo Mbeki's government the trend is clearly in that direction, and in Asmal Mbeki has a minister who is both willing and able to wield the axe. The latest legislation must be seen in this light.

*Lewis is editor of the RDP Development Monitor and the Tourism Info Brief*

# Machel inaugurated as UCT chancellor

CT 7/12/99 (54)

PRISCILLA SINGH

FORMER first lady Graça Machel was yesterday inaugurated as chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

In a moving ceremony in UCT's Jameson Hall, Machel was also conferred an honorary doctorate in philosophy.

She was accompanied by her husband Nelson Mandela and her children Josina and Malinga.

Machel said she felt very humbled that UCT thought her worthy of occupying the position of chancellor at a university that was among the best in South Africa.

She said she was conscious of the standard set by those before her and paid tribute to Harry Oppenheimer, her predecessor.

"Nor on this occasion can any of us not be reflecting on the loss that we will be

feeling when our vice-chancellor Dr (Mantshela) Ramphele takes up the challenge of bringing to one of the principal institutions of the world financial system, the wisdom and leadership she has brought to UCT and SA's universities."

However, Machel added that she drew courage from the fact that she was the first chancellor that UCT elected "who was black, who was a woman and who was a Southern African from beyond the borders of your own country. I am encouraged as I assume those responsibilities because I know that in electing such a chancellor, and also someone who was obliged by history to become identified with the struggle for liberation of the people of our region, you are also making a bold statement about what kind of university you would wish UCT to be."

(54)

# Ramphela takes parting shot at 'culture of silence'

ART 7/12/99

## Democracy at risk, academics warned

Democracy is at risk because too many people, white and black, are afraid to criticise the new "liberation" establishment, outspoken University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphela warned in a tough graduation speech.

She hit out at white and black academics for contributing to "a disturbing culture of silence", and at students and society at large for "taking democracy for granted".

And she suggested that "those who are not prepared to defend democracy should not be entitled to its benefits".

Her call to arms for democracy's sake came in what is likely to be one of her last major speeches, at yesterday's humanities graduation ceremony, before she joins the World Bank in the new year. Her successor has not yet been chosen.

Dr Ramphela is to serve the bank as one of four managing directors, responsible for a newly created human development portfolio.

Unlike elsewhere in Africa, she said, the problem in South Africa was not an intolerance of multi-party democracy but of taking democracy for granted.

There was a risk, she implied, of South Africa following "Africa's most tragic and recurring tales: the revered heroes of the liberation struggles mutating into villains".

"There is a disturbing culture of silence in this country that if not dealt with will negate the gains of our infant democracy."

"There were a lot of academics

**MICHAEL MORRIS**  
Special Writer

..... who spoke out fearlessly about the evils of apartheid. Where have they disappeared to? Their conspicuous silence since the advent of democracy has been disturbing."

In a damning assessment, she said: "White academics do not speak out on issues of national concern any more because they are afraid that they will be labelled racist."

"Black academics do not criticise the Government because of misplaced loyalty born out of comradeship with its roots in the struggle against apartheid - they held - they can't be seen to be criticising their own."

As a sum, these "misplaced loyalties and a culture of silence are putting South Africa's democracy at risk".

Elsewhere in Africa, she noted, democracy had yet to "sink its roots ... because of the failure of most of Africa's people to move beyond liberation politics".

Independence was seen as an end in itself, but "there was a failure to see that while the colour of those in power had changed, those who took over the reins were still human like their predecessors".

"The new, ruling elite, left to its whims, concentrating absolute power, had the potential to be just as

bad as the colonial masters. "But," she asked, "can you blame them when the people decided to be tacitly acquiescent and let them do as they wished with unfettered powers?"

"Can you blame them when it is the 'masses' themselves who vilified early opposition parties in independent states and dismissed them as enemies of unity?"

Surveying contemporary South African politics, Dr Ramphela noted with alarm evidence suggesting "that we are sliding towards apathy".

Many young South Africans were taking their freedom for granted, forgetting the sacrifices made to achieve it.

"If we are not careful in our preservation of democracy, future generations will also be very unfortunates as citizens."

Responsible citizenship was more than just obeying laws, Dr Ramphela said.

"There must be a culture of robust, open public debate, tolerance of different viewpoints and people with the courage of their convictions to express their views even if these might not be popular."

In her message to humanities graduates, Dr Ramphela said courage was the most important virtue in life. Without it "we become conformists ... and South Africa has enough conformists".

The country needed free-thinking innovators.

"Do not be frightened by the aloneness that may come with your holding unpopular positions," she told them.

"It is in that aloneness that wisdom will visit you and smile upon you."



Capped: Graça Machel, centre, is awarded an honorary doctorate in philosophy by University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphela during Mrs Machel's installation as chancellor of UCT. Mary Burton, left, deputy chair of the UCT council, looks on.

# Graça Machel is installed as 'first lady' of UCT

LYNETTE JOHNS  
Evening Reporter

Former first lady Graça Machel made history when she was installed as the first black woman chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

The university has not had a chancellor since the retirement of mining magnate Harry Oppenheimer in 1996.

Mrs Machel received an honorary doctorate in philosophy in recognition of her contribution to education and

development.

Speaking at her installation last night, a radiant Mrs Machel, wearing a gold blouse and black skirt under her robe, thanked her husband, Nelson Mandela, for being with her.

Her daughter Josina, a UCT graduate, and her son, Malinga, a UCT student, were also present.

In a sometimes hard-hitting speech, she said: "Whether we speak of gender or colour, UCT, like the other long-established universities in South Africa,

needs to continue making the progress it has been making.

"It needs to continue along the path away from a colonial past whose legacy etched itself in the composition of its staff, its leadership, its intellectual agendas and its international relations."

She said redress was vital, especially in the field of research in science and technology, where the proportion of black people, and in particular black women, was small.

Paying homage to her predecessor, Mr

Oppenheimer, she said she was "conscious of the standard set by those who am following".

Mr Oppenheimer was UCT chancellor from 1967 to 1996, when he retired.

Mrs Machel was married to Samora Machel, former Mozambican president who died in a mystery air crash in 1986. She was Mozambique's minister of education and culture for 11 years before resigning in 1989. She has won several awards, including the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe.

# Foreign universities face tough test in SA

LINDA VERISWAM  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Close to Sandton's gleaming shopping malls in Gauteng, construction of a R20-million undergraduate campus for Australia's private Bond University is almost complete.

Bond University, which has around 1 700 students on its main campus on Australia's Gold Coast, is the first foreign university to open an undergraduate facility in South Africa, but others are eyeing the territory.

Anton Jordaan, a director of Bond University's South African business partner, AdvEd Education, claims Bond degrees have "more international currency" than local ones.

Among the advantages of Bond, Mr Jordaan says, are smaller classes and "practically orientated" degrees, which can be completed in two years instead of three. Even at R27 000 a year - more than double the fees of South African state universities - he expects to enrol around 450 students next year.

The only problem is that Bond, like other private and foreign universities, has not yet been told whether its application for South African registration and accreditation has been approved.

In terms of the 1997 Higher Education Act, all private higher education institutions must be registered with the Department of Education and their courses accredited.

African qualifications authority. The Government insists that if private higher education institutions do not meet both requirements by the end of this year they may be closed down.

The legislation is aimed in part at protecting unsophisticated students from "unscrupulous elements".

All private institutions, including well-known American, British and Australian universities offering MBAs in this country, have had to apply

Molapo Qhobela, chief director for higher education policy and support in the department, said 70 of around 100 private higher education institutions had met the application deadlines for accreditation and registration.

So far four of these institutions, including De Montfort University in Johannesburg and Haute Couture School of Fashion in Cape Town, had been registered and had specific courses accredited.

The department has promised to inform the rest of the institutions about the outcome of their applications by December 31.

It will then publish a full list of registered organisations, so parents and students can find out if they are dealing with legitimate institutions.

The department has warned that students who enrol at an unregistered institution may find it "closed down,

leading to possible financial and academic loss", and that the qualifications offered may be "worthless".

Asked what would happen to institutions that applied late, Dr Qhobela said: "Obviously it would be silly for us not to uphold the law."

But "it would be up to the education minister to spell out exactly how things would pan out come January".

Dr Qhobela said the requirements for registration had been advertised since last year and he would find it "highly improbable" that any legitimate institution had not applied in time.

He maintained registration would help deal with "fly-by-night operations", such as a Cape Town college that disappeared from rented premises after collecting student fees earlier this year. It would also establish which were further education institutions and which for higher education.

The department has a list of about 900 private colleges and institutions offering further education courses.

The department would not consider

registering a foreign institution that was not already accredited in its home country, Dr Qhobela said.

"If an institution comes here, what we evaluate is the South African operations."

If, for example, Harvard University wanted to set up programmes in South Africa, it would have to satisfy the department that

the courses it offered were not inferior to those at home in the US.

Students who graduated in South Africa had to be able to continue with post-graduate degrees at the overseas campus without any remedial work having to be done.

He said: "Whether you are Bond, Oxford Brookes or Thames Valley, you go through the same hoops."

Foreign institutions also had to have a legal presence in South Africa, which usually meant having a South African offer.

business partner, and proper premises. Dr Qhobela said the diversity of courses offered by private institutions was "very narrow and usually just in the business sector".

He questioned what value they were adding to the system.

He also asked whether some foreign institutions were coming in to "strip mine", which he explained as setting up short-term businesses and when the market had disappeared in two or three years, leaving the country.

Saleem Badat, chief executive of the statutory Council on Higher Education, which advises the Government on policy, said: "The fact that universities may be registered and accredited in the United States, Britain or Australia does not obviate the need for accreditation locally. We need to have a much more informed public - parents and high school pupils - on the qualifications that are on offer."

Dr Badat believes many courses offered by foreign institutions may not be relevant in South Africa.

"It will be terrible for a student, two or three years down the line, to find employers are not enthralled because the courses don't relate to this country," he said.

Vice-chancellors of some universities are concerned that private institutions may be creaming off the solid fee-paying base of middle-class students.

Certainly, private and public sector institutions are competing for a dwindling pool of matriculants with exemptions.

The number of students at South Africa's 36 public universities and technikon diminished by 41 000 last year, and private institutions are thought to be partly responsible.

But private institutions maintain they are offering services that the public sector does not provide.

In such fields as information technology and business, some colleges and private universities claim to be offering

ing courses that are far more internationally competitive than local ones.

On a visit to South Africa, Bond University vice-chancellor Ken Moores said: "With due respect, I believe we can meet the educational quality and standards that you put up. We would certainly hope that is the case."

He said Bond had done everything according to the book in applying for registration.

"We, as a quality university and provider of higher education, aren't seeking to take over the world and aren't doing any fly-by-night things. We offer education consistent with the quality back home. It will be up to the market to judge us."

He said establishing a Johannesburg campus was a "fairly tough decision to take", but he had been very impressed with the partners in the Bond University initiative.

"It will be an overseas campus of Bond University, but ownership of the premises rests with our South African partners."

Mr Jordaan believes delays in registering private institutions have been caused by a staff shortage in the Department of Education.

He is confident that Bond and its courses will meet all the requirements, and that the new campus will open on schedule next year.

Adri Marais, principal of Varsity College in Rondebosch, said her institution had applied for accreditation and registration.

"There is a huge bureaucratic process to go through, but, as far as meeting deadlines is concerned, we are very comfortable that we are where we should be."

Around 800 students are registered at Varsity College campuses, with about half the students doing Unisa degrees and others registered for a variety of diplomas.

Mrs Marais says Varsity College has applied for accreditation for all 16 courses it offers.

"I think that, at the level that our academic standards are at, there is no reasons why we should not get it. Many of our courses are internationally accredited."

ARG 01/12/99

# UCT honours top British film-maker

(54) ARU 9/12/99

## UCT awards Attenborough a doctorate

(54) CT 9/12/99

PRISCILLA SINGH  
EDUCATION WRITER

ACCLAIMED film-maker Lord Richard Attenborough received an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from the University of Cape Town yesterday.

The honorary degree was presented to Attenborough by UCT Vice-Chancellor Mamphele Ramphele.

Lesley Marx, associate professor in the Faculty of Humanities, delivered a citation, saying that what the films Attenborough directed had in common was a passion for telling the stories of heroes — Mahatma Gandhi, Steve Biko, Charlie Chaplin and Joy Gresham — who expressed their courage in different ways.

In his address to the graduands from the Faculty of Humanities and the wider university community, Attenborough said he felt certain that in South Africa Nelson Mandela is seen as the man who, more than anyone else, brought about the end of apartheid.

"The rest of the world stands in awe of his remarkable, some might say superhuman, ability to resist recrimination and bitterness in offering those who were his captors the hand of forgiveness and compassion," he said.

He also spoke about fighting in World War II alongside young white South Africans in the Royal Air Force.

"I was totally bewildered when in 1948, just three years after the war had ended, those same young white men agreed to live under apartheid at home in South Africa.

"By so doing, they were actively supporting a regime which, to me, was just as monstrous, just as opposed to every principle of human rights as that which they had so recently risked everything to defeat."

Attenborough won international acclaim for his films *Cry Freedom* and *Gandhi*.

Attenborough also spoke about how, for various reasons, he and his wife were booted out of South Africa in 1984.

He was visiting South Africa at the time to get a feel for the country as part of his research for *Cry Freedom*.

LYNNETTE JOHNS  
EDUCATION REPORTER

Acclaimed British film-maker Lord Attenborough has thrown his weight behind international calls for the cancellation of Third World debt.

Lord Attenborough yesterday received an honorary doctorate in literature from the University of Cape Town.

He said cancellation of the debt owed by Third World countries to the West was having an impact on the delivery of social services in the world's poor countries.

"Whether here, or in any country of the world, there surely cannot be any hope of equality unless we educate our children," he said.

"And while a proper education for all does not yet exist in South Africa and will take many years to achieve, the strides that have been and are being made towards the longed-for goal are very remarkable indeed."

He hoped Western leaders would soon make the task to improve housing, health and education by Third World countries easier, by cancelling Third World debt.

Lord Attenborough, 70, who left school at the age of 16, said he was a grateful recipient of the degree.

"I have to confess that I am, in truth, a graduate of what is kindly known as the university of life," he added.

Lord Attenborough has a long association with South Africa.

One of his films, *Cry Freedom* — about black consciousness leader Steve Biko — was hailed as having helped to intensify support for economic sanctions against the apartheid regime.

He also produced *Gandhi*, which won eight Academy awards and five BAFTA awards.

He was knighted in 1976 and elevated to the peerage in 1993, becoming Lord Attenborough of Richmond.

The dapper peer still campaigns for and contributes to causes on behalf of disadvantaged people throughout the world, especially in Britain and South Africa.

He is the sixth person to receive an honorary degree from UCT this year.



**HIGHER EDUCATION**

**HISTORICALLY BLACK UNIVERSITIES FACE CLOSURE**

PM 10/12/99

Sector stands to lose R350m in subsidies (54)

Government subsidies to historically black universities (HBUs) are expected to fall by 26% over the next three years, in line with the expected decline in student enrolments.

According to the statutory Council on Higher Education (CHE)'s annual report, this could spell the death knell of some HBUs that are burdened with debt, poorly managed, and survive on bank overdrafts ranging from R26m to R90m.

The advisory body's report estimates that the higher education sector — which relies on government for 50% of its income — stands to lose R348m in government subsidies if enrolment patterns continue and the subsidy formula remains unchanged, as is likely.

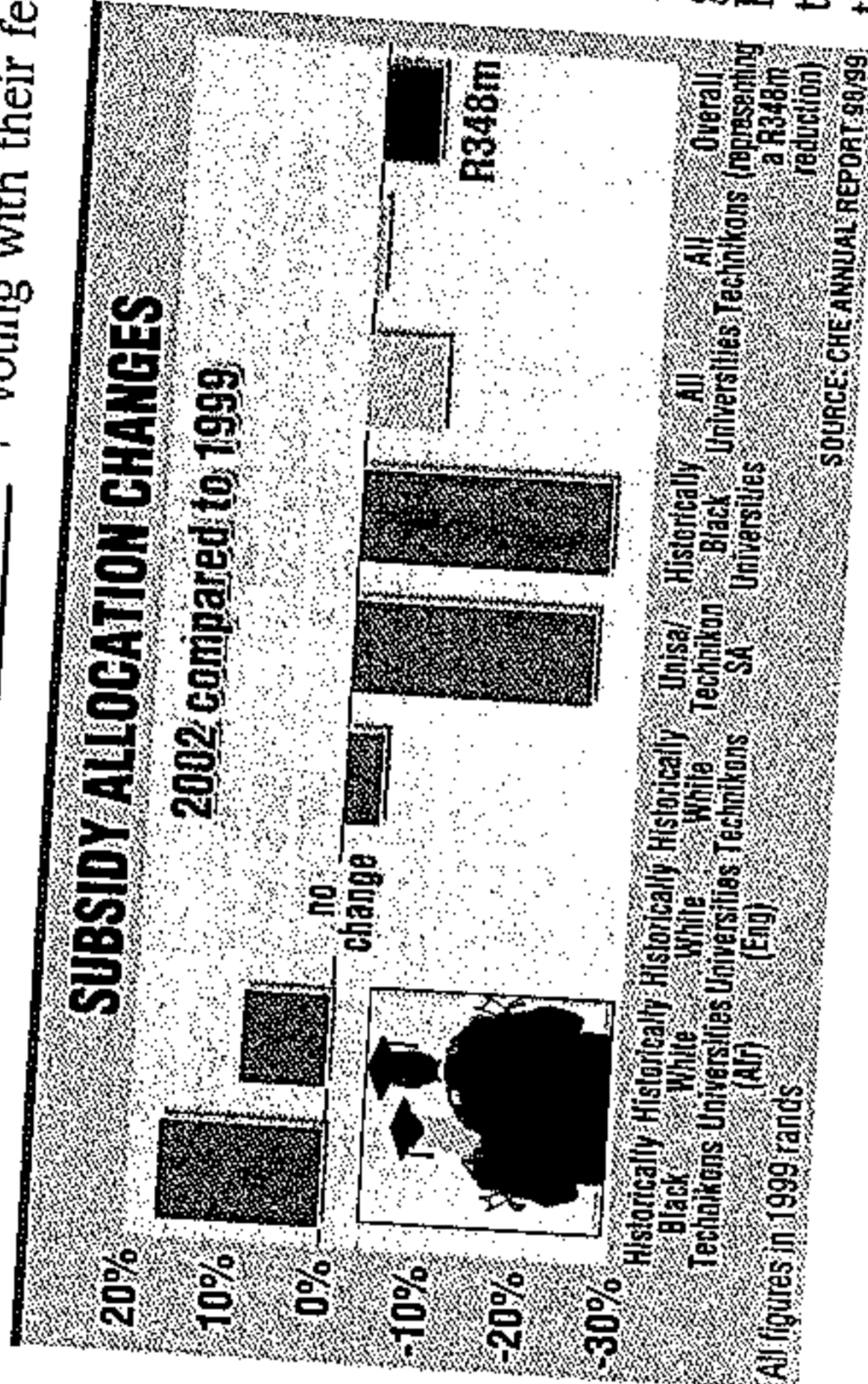
"This represents a crisis with the potential to intensify unless there is a considerable increase in student enrolments at a number of institutions and within the public higher education sector as a

skills is expected to grow at 5% annually. The hardest hit after HBUs will be SA's main distance learning institutions — Unisa and Technikon SA — which can expect their subsidies to shrink by 25% by 2002 if their enrolments continue to fall.

This is because the enrolment-linked subsidy follows the students and they are voting with their feet, moving from HBUs and traditional distance learning institutions to new private colleges, technikons and historically Afrikaans universities. The last named have made great headway in establishing distance learning programmes and now have more black distance students than their total number of contact students.

**SUBSIDY ALLOCATION CHANGES**

2002 compared to 1999



whole," it warns.

Student enrolments declined by 7% (26 000) in 1999 compared with 1998, partly as a result of the steady decline in the matric exemption rate from 89 000 in 1994 to 69 000 in 1998. The report acknowledges that this is something SA can ill-afford as the demand for high-level

SA Institute for Distance Education director Jenny Glennie, says the total distance learning population has not decreased. She says the losses at Unisa have been mainly in education and arts and at Technikon SA, in police studies. Contrary to the CHE report, Unisa does not expect

Continued on page 38

# Principal raises his pay to R1,5m

(54) M+G 10-16/12/99

*The Heath unit is set to investigate irregularities at Technikon SA estimated to amount to about R60-million, reports Ivor Powell*

**W**ith his institution in chaos, the principal of Technikon SA gave himself a 35% salary increase, pushing it up to around R1.5 million per year. Althe Buitendacht neglected to seek the governing council's approval for this boost, leading to the resignation of council chair Marietta Marx de Villiers.

Undaunted, Buitendacht then paid himself and four of his deputies a performance bonus of R25 000 in a single month last year.

Buitendacht — a protégé of former National Party Cabinet minister and Broederbond kingpin Gerrit Viljoen — allegedly also receives some surprising perks in his job. Included in the list are the payment of his rates and taxes by the technikon, gardening services and private security at his home, and a basic transport allowance of R130 000 a year.

The principal's package is one of nearly 100 alleged irregularities in the giant distance learning institution which were referred earlier this year to the Heath special investigating unit.

Sources inside the technikon — which runs on an annual budget of around R500-million — said the alleged improprieties could add up to more than R100-million. *The Mail & Guardian* understands that the Heath unit's estimates were pegged in the region of R60-million.

Other issues which have been identified for investigation include alleged overpayment for printing services and advertising as well as multiple claims for expenses by senior mem-



**On the case: Judge Heath heads the unit investigating irregularities at Technikon SA**

bers of staff — with some instances recorded of claims submitted up to 12 times against the same business expense.

Against this backdrop the technikon appears to be in the most desperate straits. Sources inside the institution said that by mid-year more than 100 000 student assignments had gone missing and could not be accounted for. In the course of this last year the tutoring system at the technikon's regional campuses had broken down no fewer than three times. Perhaps not surprisingly, in the same period 45 000 students (of a total number of 85 000) dropped out.

The *M&G* understands that the Ministry of Education is also investigating irregularities at the institution.

The Heath unit asked for a proclamation to

investigate Technikon SA in July this year — one of 91 requested by the unit but yet to be proclaimed by the government. But even if the investigation is finally proclaimed, it could already have been compromised.

The *M&G* is in possession of a letter sent by an investigator attached to the Heath unit which could have let the cat out of the bag.

Described by sources inside the unit as highly irregular, the letter to Technikon SA management outlines proposed investigations in enough detail for the subjects to be in a position to pre-empt the Heath unit's scrutiny.

It was authored by investigator Casper Genis, on the instruction of senior investigator advocate G Visagie, and sent to the technikon's public affairs department.

It specifies, among other things, that Judge Willem Heath's unit is planning to look into "the outsourcing of human resources for personal gain... the unlawful and/or irregular use of printing equipment belonging to Technikon SA for private purposes and personal gain... theft or unlawful appropriation of property including computer equipment, machinery, stationery and/or furniture belonging to Technikon SA... and irregular and/or unauthorised salary increases awarded to officials of Technikon SA".

The letter is dated October 14 1999 and was sent under the special investigating unit's letterhead. Heath unit representative Guy Rich confirmed that the letter had been sent at the request of the technikon, but added: "It doesn't give any more detail than there would have been in the proclamation had it been issued."

However, in the wake of the sending of the letter, Buitendacht authorised his own investigation into alleged irregularities. In a memorandum to staff on October 18, Buitendacht wrote: "I have instructed Mrs Ajaal Jordaan to advise me of anything that she may be aware of which might have a bearing on corruption

or anything that could be construed as such, and they [sic] were unable to find anything."

Rich says it is unusual for the unit's investigators to give details of the substance of proposed investigations, as this could give those under investigation the opportunity to destroy or alter documentation ahead of the actual proclamation of the investigation.

In terms of legislation governing special investigating units, Heath investigators are not permitted to go ahead with proposed investigations until they are signed by the president and published in the *Government Gazette*.

**H**eath unit investigators would not give details of the alleged irregularities giving rise to the proposed investigation. However, a senior source inside the technikon said more than 100 instances of alleged impropriety have been levelled against the institution's top management and its associates.

One involves a private company which was contracted to provide furniture and other supplies for examinations held under the auspices of the technikon. Internal audits found that the amount charged for the service was irregularly high. It was also discovered that the company was owned by a farmer whose farm was a neighbour to one owned by a former technikon vice-principal.

The vice-principal in question left the technikon's employ amid allegations of harassment. The owner of the company contracted was later the subject of South African Revenue Service investigations, but settled his debts before assets were attached.

Buitendacht is on leave and could not be contacted at the time of going to press. His office telephone was unattended despite frequent attempts to get through.

*John Matshikiza is away. His column, With the Lid Off, will return in the new year.*

## Private colleges apply to register

**Caroline Christerson**

MORE than 700 private institutions of higher education have since January applied for official registration.

All tertiary institutions are legally required to register with the education department, and the registration drive coincides with the SA Qualifications Authority's (Saqas) preliminary programme accreditation process.

Foreign and local applicants will be informed by December 23 if their applications have been successful.

The registration of private institutions which offer only further education and training programmes, without awarding higher education qualifications, will

be addressed in the first quarter of next year.

Applications for registration and accreditation have not yet closed, and the number of applicants continues to grow.

Meanwhile, co-operation and collaboration among educational institutions in sub-Saharan Africa was the underlying message of the closing comments on the last day of the Education for All conference on Friday.

The week-long conference in Johannesburg addressed issues facing education in Africa, such as gender inequality, AIDS and insufficient finance.

BA 13/12/99 (54)

---

# Sonn, Gerwel tipped as UCT finalises job shortlist

LYNNETTE JOHNS  
EDUCATION REPORTER

(54)

ARG 15/12/99

**Nominations for the new vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town close today, amid intense speculation.**

Favourites tipped are the former ambassador to the United States, Franklin Sonn, and Nelson Mandela's former director-general, Jakes Gerwel.

But UCT council chairman Tony Farr, who called for nominations, was tight-lipped as to who was on the list.

Outgoing vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphele will join the World Bank in Washington next year.

Mr Farr said the university would announce the names on the shortlist once it had been finalised and all candidates had agreed to be considered. This was likely to be in February.

The vice-chancellor is the university's chief executive officer, responsible to the senate for academic work and to

the council for overall management.

Professor Gerwel yesterday said that if he were to be nominated, which would be an honour, he would decline because he was enjoying his new job so much.

He was appointed to the Nelson Mandela Chair of the Humanities - a joint University of the Western Cape/UCT post, in August. He also became Rhodes University's chancellor in February.

Yesterday he said: "Would I accept the nomination? No!

"I had the same post at UWC for five years and then worked in the president's office for four years. Now I am learning how to read again."

Mr Sonn was also cagey about his prospects. He said educational institutions kept such nominations as confidential as possible.

He was Peninsula Technikon's rector before becoming ambassador.

He returned this year and is following business interests.

---

# Edupark probe slammed as biased

(SA) M&G 17-22/12/99

## Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

The head of Edupark, a private company launched by the University of the North, has slammed a R2-million inquiry commissioned by the university as being little more than a smear campaign against the former vice-chancellor Njabulo Ndebele.

Moss Leoka, the chair of Edupark, told the *Mail & Guardian* this week that the findings of the inquiry, conducted by attorney Phineas Mojapelo, were "inaccurate, incomplete and misleading".

The *M&G* reported earlier this year on the commission's findings, which accused Ndebele, an unpaid director of Edupark, of acting against the interests of the university in his quest to set up Edupark. The company hosts lectures and leases property to other South African universities.

Mojapelo found that Edupark would be "enriched to the tune of R15-million at the expense of the university". The attorney's findings were confirmed by the chair of the university's council, Benny Boshlelo, who was suspended on December 3 after an internal university inquiry charged him with mismanagement.

Boshlelo has since publicly apologised to Ndebele, one of South Africa's most eminent academics, for the slur. Leoka, who claims that Mojapelo never attempted to contact either him or Ndebele during his investigation, said the findings of the commission were a result of a smear campaign against Ndebele and his former right-hand man, John Wiltshire, the university's head of development and public affairs.

"I advise all our supporters, stakeholders and institutional partners that the Edupark initiative has committed no wrongdoing itself," Leoka said, adding that the institution had "never been implicated in any financial, legal and business misdemeanour of any kind".

Wiltshire was the other founding director of Edupark. The Mojapelo commission found that Wiltshire, who is Edupark's salaried CEO, used university funds to travel to New York on Edupark business.

Wiltshire earlier denied this allegation but confirmed his appointment. Leoka, who is also a member of the university council, says Mojapelo was "briefed incorrectly about Edupark

when he went to investigate". "You see," says Leoka, "when you are wrongfully briefed you will go and look for 'spooks' during your investigation."

Leoka said all the allegations of wrongdoing "by any party in connection with the Edupark development and the alleged findings of the

Mojapelo report in regard to Edupark are in the main inaccurate, incomplete and misleading".

He continued: "Full formal audits have been carried out during the two years of Edupark's existence and all funds are wholly and accurately accounted for. The board fully supports its officers and all their actions. In

particular those of Professor Ndebele during his term of office and all those of John Wiltshire our CEO."

Mojapelo could not be reached for comment, but his co-investigator, Jerry Sithole, said he upheld the findings of the commission no matter what Leoka believes.

Sithole said he stood by all the

commission's findings, adding that all the findings were made on the basis of the documentation and submissions provided to the commission. "He [Mojapelo] even referred to minutes of university council and made findings on the basis of that, and then made recommendations," he said.

# Top Fort Hare professors suspended

Peter Dickson

**A** University of Fort Hare commission of inquiry has found evidence of misconduct by former vice-chancellor Professor Mbulelo Mzamane and his deputy for academic affairs, Professor Ntobeko Maqhashalala.

Acting vice-chancellor Professor Derrick Swartz said this week that the two academics had been suspended by the university and would face disciplinary action.

The move comes nine months after government ordered a probe into alleged financial mismanagement at the cash-strapped Alice university.

The investigation was carried out by former

(54)  
University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders, who found Fort Hare to be facing a major financial crisis and recommended the option of closing it down should be considered "seriously".

By this month, despite even the highest government subsidy of all South African universities, the overdraft was expected to be R52-million and topping R71-million by December next year.

Fort Hare is currently negotiating with banks, calling in massive student debts and seeking donations for survival.

Mzamane, Maqhashalala and registrar Dr Isaac Mabindisa, who has since resigned from Fort Hare, agreed to take leave in April while a

commission of inquiry considered Saunders's recommendations.

Mzamane, who intends seeking legal advice, stayed on as a tenured professor in Fort Hare's department of English studies and comparative literature after his term of office as vice-chancellor ended in August.

Saunders found low staff morale and "a great deal of tension and lack of trust at the university".

He documented a string of misconduct allegations, including staff members enjoying fully paid sabbatical leave for up to five years, and others from two to three years. The average academic staff member worked a two-and-a-half day week, with some doing nothing at

all, while little research took place. Saunders also found "ghost" employees on the payroll.

Saunders reported rumours of murders and assassinations on campus that had caused "a great deal of insecurity" at great financial cost.

The entire administration block was surrounded by razor wire and private security guards were hired after 938 redundant workers — there were at least five cleaners to every student — were retrenched in 1997.

Mabindisa, receiving "security comparable to a head of state", had been protected from that time while travelling between home and campus and Mzamane had a guard on duty at his home at night.

MHG 17-22/12/99

## Wits launches 'after-hours' degree

Primarashni Pillay

WITS University has launched a part-time Bachelor of Arts degree for working students.

The degree will be offered at first-year level from next year. It will combine courses from the education, arts, commerce and law faculties.

For example, a student can enrol for a BA World of Work degree, which combines courses in sociology, information systems, economics and business accounting.

Prof Kathy Munro, director of Wits Plus, the centre for part-time studies, said: "Wits is responding to the new demands for flexible studies and we are adapting to the needs of more mature students." She said the programme would be ideal for people who wanted to upgrade diplomas to degrees, com-

plete degrees or study for a first degree.

Students will be offered career guidance to suit their particular backgrounds and educational needs. They will be able to select courses from a range of subjects, including commercial law, economic concepts, international relations, political studies and English.

They may study two courses a year for the degree, which extends over six years. Every stage of progress will be rewarded with a certificate after two years of part-time study, a diploma after four years and a degree on completion of the major subjects, said Munro. "The same Wits standards and challenges in the after-hours programme will earn students a leading degree."

The programme costs between R6 600 and R7 000 a year and lectures will be held in the evenings Monday to Thursday and on Saturday mornings.

BD 17/12/99 (54)