

# Desegregation of South African schools seen as small step

By KYLE YORK SPENCER  
Staff Writer

South Africa began its school year this month with the partial desegregation of some all-white South African public schools, a move the South African government is calling a significant step toward "an equal society with no apartheid." But experts warn against overemphasizing the change, which one expert called nothing more than a "crack in the dike."

The opening of 179 previously all-white public schools was the result of a government proposal that permitted limited integration of a white school if 80 percent of the parents voted on the proposal and 72 percent approved it. Schools which chose the limited deseg-

regation were predominately in politically liberal neighborhoods, according to AP wire reports.

U.S. government officials and experts on South African affairs all agreed that the step was one more demonstration that South Africa is on the irreversible path to the end of apartheid. Yet they also agreed that the process was slow. Most said it was too slow.

"(It is) a positive occurrence. Not an occurrence that merits more than a positive nod," said Mark Quarterman, a professional staff consultant of the Africa subcommittee of the U.S. House Affairs Committee.

Allister Sparks, a visiting professor at Duke University from South Africa, said, "It is a partial relaxation of the last

bastion of apartheid. So that it shouldn't be heralded as a great breakthrough."

The U.S. government favors the desegregation plan, but is discouraged that only about 10 percent of the 2,000 white public schools welcomed a few non-white students, according to an unnamed government official.

Among both South African and American experts, there was general recognition that partial desegregation failed to address the demands of black South Africans who would like to see all of South Africa's educational systems unified.

"Government is still arguing and making the statement that people have a right to be educated in their 'own' schools, and that each race group has a

right to be educated in its own language, and according to its own culture and tradition," Sparks said. "The government is still committed to segregated education."

According to Heather Jaspens, a South African citizen who moved to the United States three and one-half years ago, commitments to segregation have led to large disparities in funding and the quality of education offered by the different systems.

During a phone interview Sunday, Jaspens said black public schools offered students fewer benefits.

The South African government re-

cently reported the matriculation rate among white South African seniors last year to be 90 percent. The matriculation rate among blacks was only 36.4 percent, the lowest pass rate ever among South African blacks.

Quarterman said the limited desegregation in public schools affects only a few hundred of the 20 million South African blacks and consequently does very little to improve the standard of education for the vast majority of them.

Tops Guma, a visiting professor in the African and Afro-American studies curriculum, said President F.W. de Klerk was "passing the buck to parents" rather

than making integration a government policy. Guma is a South African black.

"The government is exonerating itself from responsibility," Guma said. "The apartheid system is still going on."

But South African government officials argue that de Klerk wants to desegregate the schools with the support of the people.

"If the initiative comes from the people, it just works better," said Coen Bezuidenhout, the press secretary at the South African Embassy in Washington. "This allows for a smoother, voluntary change-over to a new system."

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## Campus Calendar

**MONDAY**  
2:00: UCPPS will hold a Career Ahead Workshop for freshmen through juniors in 306 Hanes.  
3:30: Job Hunt 101: Basic information on how to use the UCPPS office will be held in 209 Hanes.  
4:00: Study Abroad announces an information session about our Honors Semester Program at the London School of Economics in 12 Caldwell.  
4:15: Job Hunt 102: Resume Writing Workshop

will be held in 209 Hanes.  
6:30: The Living/Learning Program (Language Houses) invites you to come to a Potluck International Dinner tonight. There is one every month, usually the first Tuesday in the month, always on 2nd floor Carmichael. Don't miss the fun.  
First Wachovia will give a presentation in the UNC Ballroom at the Carolina Inn.  
The Black Pre-Professional Health Society will

hold a meeting about summer programs/internships. ECU, MED, N.C. Health Manpower, and the Summer Enrichment Program will be represented.  
The Order of the Bell Tower meets today in Union 206.  
7:00: Carolina Fever's first general meeting of the semester is tonight in Manning 209. All members are urged to attend.  
The Ridgefield Action Project Committee of the Campus Y invites you to come to our first spring meeting in the Campus Y lounge. Come learn about spending time after school with children at local housing developments.  
The UNC Chess Club meets every Tuesday evening on the 2nd floor of the Union.  
7:30: A Self Defense Class sponsored by Women's Issues Committee-Student Government in the South Gallery Meeting Room of the Union.  
8:00: UNC Young Democrats will have their first meeting of the semester in Union 206.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**  
A Diabetes Support Group is to run for 6 weeks this semester. Call Student Health at 966-6562 to register.  
Attention business students!! Delta Sigma Pi, the professional business fraternity, is now holding sign-ups for Spring Rush outside of Carrall Hall for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Rush events will run from Jan. 22 to Feb. 1. All business students are welcome!  
La casa española esta aceptando solicitudes para el año que viene. Son para todos que quieren aprender mas de la lengua y la cultura española. Los solicitaciones se encuentran en Union Desk, Carmichael Desk, o a nuestra programa, "Charlemos," los jueves a los ocho. Preguntas? Llama a Kevin 933-0903. Deadline is Jan. 28.

## Bush

this brutal treatment of pilots is a way to muster world support, he is dead wrong," the president said. "And I think everybody is upset about it."

Cheney said the prisoners' statements "clearly were coerced. ... That is to say these were men who were forced to make these statements and that, in and of itself, is another violation of the solemn treaty obligation that Iraq signed some time ago."

The Iraqi diplomat, Shewayish, said at the State Department that his country would abide by Geneva Convention rules governing treatment of POWs.

He met with Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Robert Kimmitt. Asked about the meeting afterward, Shewayish told reporters he conveyed to Kimmitt Iraq's "deep concern ... about our civilians ... old women and men and children that were targeted by the brutal and savage bombardment, by the American and so-called allied planes."

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said the allied attack was directed at military targets but that, "I'm sure there has been collateral damage."

Five days into the fighting, the administration cautioned that Iraq still had a potent military machine despite the pounding of about 8,100 air missions

by the allies.

Cheney said Iraq still had an arsenal of hundreds of SCUD missiles, which Saddam has used to attack Israel and Saudi Arabia.

But military leaders said they remained satisfied with the course of the war. "Our casualties have been significantly lower than I think most people

anticipated based on historical experience," Cheney said.

The American Red Cross, reacting to a Pentagon request, said it had scaled back its weekly blood shipments to Gulf hospitals from 1,000 pints to 400 pints. "They've collected almost too much because there haven't been as many casualties as they had expected," said Red Cross spokeswoman Elizabeth Hall.

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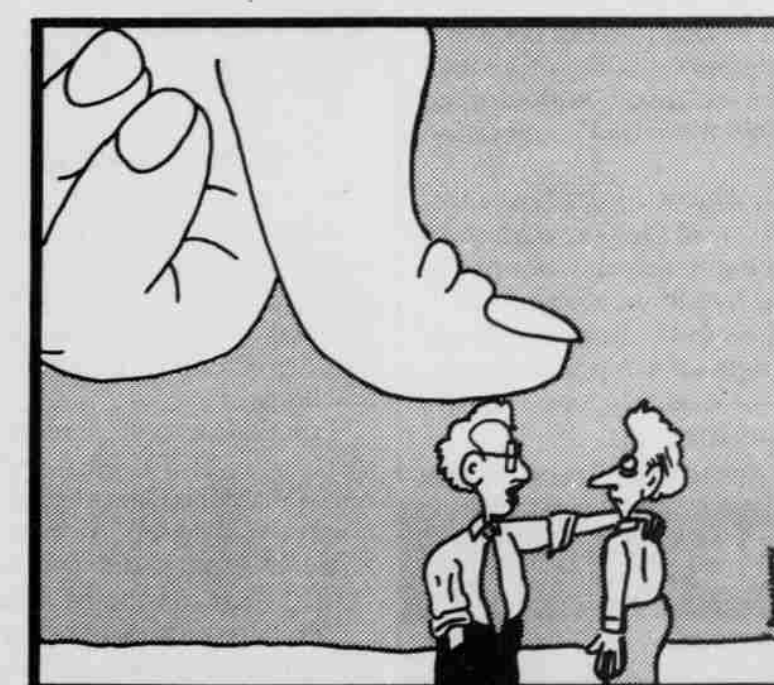
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