

Disaster fund in Jo'burg



MR. PATRICK LEWIS

The Mayor's Fund for the Langlaagte train disaster now totals about R43,000. Of this R12,735 has been paid out either in cash or in the provision of food.

This was stated by the Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr. Patrick Lewis, today.

He said that of the R30,180 which remained unspent, "it is anticipated that about R10,000 will be required."

This would leave an unspent balance of about R20,000 ("that is taking into account funds which we know have been collected but not yet paid in").

He proposed to close the fund as soon as the uncollected donations had been paid in, and from today, with the unspent balance of R20,000, "create a Mayor's Disaster Fund which will be available should a further disaster occur."

This would continue to be administered by the Non-European Affairs Department's Welfare Fund, and would be invested so that interest would accrue.

VICTIMS

The Mayor said that the number of victims in the train accident on February 17, was 181, of which 20 were killed immediately, 75 were admitted to hospital, and 15 died later. Three were still in hospital and 57 had been discharged from hospital.

A third category of those injured were treated in hospital and then discharged.

Of those involved in the accident, six were Whites, of whom four sustained only minor injuries; one died and the other is still receiving treatment. He is still partially bedridden and will not be able to resume employment for at least four months.

He received R112 compensation from the Mayor's Fund — the overtime he would be receiving in his work. His normal salary is being paid by the Railways.

BREADWINNERS

Of those involved in the accident, 68 were breadwinners or persons who contributed to the household expenses; 36 were scholars, and there were 77 others.

Of the 181 victims (108 male and 73 female), 127 were from homes within the jurisdiction of the City Council's Non-European Affairs Department. The others were from Diepkloof, Meadowlands, Alexandria Township or Germiston.

'VETO OF V.I.P. TOUR SHOCKING'

THWARTING of the Mayor's plans to invite Cabinet Ministers, M.P.s, Senators and heads of Government Departments to Johannesburg for a "getting to know you" tour was a "shocking thing," Mr. J. F. Oberholzer, M.P.C., said in an interview today.

Mr. Oberholzer, acting-chairman of the city council's Management Committee, revealed to the council on Tuesday night the hitherto closely guarded secret that the Nationalist Opposition had opposed the proposed tour and that as a result it had fallen through.

He said the Mayor, Mr. Lewis, had spoken to the Prime Minister about having the tour and Mr. Vorster had given his blessing, provided the Johannesburg City Council was unanimous in its desire for the trip to take place. The Nationalists had, however, given the thumbs down.

Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., Leader of the Opposition, angrily criticized Mr. Oberholzer at the meeting for making public the information which had been kept a close secret until

then.

Now the Afrikaans Press is warning that there will be another bombshell concerning the matter within a few days.

As far as Mr. Oberholzer is concerned, the tour was off, negotiations had ended and there was no further need for secrecy. He says it is up to the Nationalists to explain why they killed a tour aimed at improving Johannesburg's relations with the higher authorities.

"This thing is quite simple," Mr. Oberholzer said. "Something is confidential, in my opinion, until it is finalized."

"If the tour was on, it would no longer have been confidential. The whole world would have known about it. Now the tour is off, and we give the reasons for it. It is as easy as that."

"I think it is quite a shocking

thing that the Opposition in the City Council should stop something of this description. I believe that the Prime Minister acted in all good faith—he wanted this thing to be a success and for that reason he indicated that the City Council Opposition should be consulted and that the whole thing should be unanimous.

"So that it would be a success and a friendly gesture and so that it would be acceptable to everyone, the Opposition was consulted and said no. I think it is a terrible thing that they did."

Mr. Oberholzer said he would very much like to know what the Opposition's motive was in opposing the proposed tour.

Now that the tour was off, it was appropriate to tell the public of Johannesburg about the whole matter.



Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Welch (left) are seen chatting to Mr. Patrick Lewis, Mayor of Johannesburg, and Mrs. T. J. Noriskin, director of the Citizens' Advice Bureau, at a City Hall lunch given by the Mayor for welfare workers in Johannesburg.



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Mr. Welch was minister of Trinity Congregational Church, Braamfontein, until he became director of Inter-Church Aid, an organization dedicated to feeding the hungry in the poverty-stricken parts of South Africa.

He is also chairman, and Mrs. Welch secretary, of the Johannesburg Co-ordinating Council of Social Welfare Organizations, and Mr. Welch is on the Southern Transvaal Regional Welfare Board.

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Priest who "fed the hungry" leaving S.A.

THE REV. CLIFFORD WELCH and his wife, Mrs. Nancy Welch, leave South Africa at the end of the month after 15 years devoted to church and welfare work here.

Mr. Welch was minister of Trinity Congregational Church, Braamfontein, until he became director of Inter-Church Aid, an organization dedicated to feeding the hungry in the poverty-stricken parts of South Africa.

He is also chairman, and Mrs. Welch secretary, of the Johannesburg Co-ordinating Council of Social Welfare Organizations, and Mr. Welch is on the Southern Transvaal Regional Welfare Board.

RDM 4/8/69

Nat veto — Mayor will not issue statement

MUNICIPAL REPORTER

THE MAYOR of Johannesburg, Mr. Patrick Lewis, has decided against issuing a statement on the controversy which followed the disclosure last week that Nationalist councillors had last year vetoed his plan to organise a comprehensive tour of the city by more than 200 Members of Parliament, Senators and State officials.

Mr. Lewis said he had decided against issuing a statement because he did not want the mayoral office to be dragged into the political arena.

Last week, the acting chairman of the Management Committee, Mr. J. F. Oberholzer, M.P.C., revealed at a council meeting that Mr. Lewis's plan had been thwarted by Nationalist councillors. He claimed they had done this because they did not want the Johannesburg City Council to better its relations with the Government.

Mr. Oberholzer said he was making the disclosure without Mr. Lewis's knowledge. Mr. Lewis was not in the council chamber at the time.

Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., leader of the National Party in the Council, then challenged Mr. Oberholzer to release the correspondence between his party in the council and Mr. Lewis on the issue.

Mr. Lewis said yesterday that, although he did not want to comment on the issue, he had no objection to Mr. Cuyler revealing details of the correspondence. Mr. Cuyler was not available for comment last night.

RDM 5/8/69

Cuyler refuses to disclose letters

Municipal Reporter

THE LEADER of the National Party in the Johannesburg City Council, Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., has surprisingly refused to reveal details of the correspondence between himself and the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, over Mr. Lewis's plan to organise an extensive tour of the city by more than 200 M.P.s, senators and State officials.

Nationalist councillors vetoed the plan when it was proposed by Mr. Lewis last year.

This was revealed at a city council meeting last week by the acting chairman of the Management Committee, Mr. J. F. Oberholzer, M.P.C., who said the Nats did not want the council to better its relations with the Central Government.

CHALLENGE

Mr. Cuyler then challenged Mr. Oberholzer to publish details of the correspondence between himself and Mr. Lewis on the issue.

Mr. Lewis said this week he did not want to comment on the matter because he did not want the mayoral office to be dragged into the political arena.

He said, however, he had no objections to Mr. Cuyler revealing details of the correspondence.

Mr. Cuyler told the "Rand Daily Mail" yesterday: "I will not make the correspondence public and I do not want to comment further on the issue. As far as I am concerned, the matter is closed."

SHOCKING

Mr. Cuyler refused to give reasons for his decisions.

Mr. Oberholzer said last night that Mr. Cuyler had tried to drag the mayor into the political arena.

"He also told us he would give three days to disclose the correspondence or he would come out with shocking revelations.

"He was very boastful, but now the chips are down it is obvious that he has something to hide.

"I believe his own people have realised what an irresponsible leader he is. He turned down a tour that would have included not only perhaps the Prime Minister, but also leading members of his party.

"The only conclusion people can come to is that Mr. Cuyler has come out of this issue very badly indeed," Mr. Oberholzer said.

STAR 5/8/69

PLAN FOR VISIT BY M.P.s

Plea to Cuyler: drop opposition

AN EARNEST PLEA was made today to the leader of Johannesburg's Nationalist city councillors, Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., to drop his opposition to the proposed visit to the city by more than 200 Members of Parliament, Senators and heads of Government departments.

The call came from the acting chairman of Johannesburg's Management Committee, Mr. J. F. Oberholzer, M.P.C., who said that if Mr. Cuyler did not want the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, to arrange the visit, he was sure organizations such as the Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Mines, the Sakekamer and the Stock Exchange would be happy to do so.

The proposed visit, originally mooted by the Mayor, fell through after the Nationalist opposition in the city council had given the thumbs down. Mr. Lewis had earlier asked the Prime Minister about the staging of the visit and Mr. Vorster had been agreeable, provided the city council was unanimous in accepting the idea.

DAMAGING

"I think Mr. Cuyler has done a lot of damage to Johannesburg," Mr. Oberholzer said in an interview today. "I think he is afraid to show people that the city is not the Sodom and Gomorrah he has always made it out to be.

"He was afraid the visitors would see for themselves and would naturally question the accuracy of the statements he had made in the past."

Mr. Oberholzer said that one of the places he and his colleagues especially wanted the visitors to see was Soweto — what the position was there and what it could be like.

"We believe that as a result of the shortage of funds for housing we are reaching a critical stage in Soweto. People are becoming restive. We wanted the Government to see that additional funds are urgently needed."

Soweto was becoming increasingly crowded. Families were sharing houses and "doubling up" all over the township.

"We have an official waiting list for houses of more than 10,000. We believe there are thousands of others who are living with other families and have not yet reported the fact."

PROUD ACHIEVEMENT

Mr. Oberholzer said the Government's contribution to Soweto was enormous and — with the Johannesburg City Council — the State could "surely be proud of its achievements there."

He strongly believed parliamentarians should see the city's achievements.

"After all, Johannesburg's con-

his bigoted, small-minded attitude.

"In any event, he would have had the opportunity of showing the visitors the bad side of things if he so wished. He would have been a party to the visit—one of the hosts. We would have welcomed his pointing out all the failings of the Johannesburg City Council."

Mr. Cuyler was not available for comment today on Mr. Oberholzer's plea.

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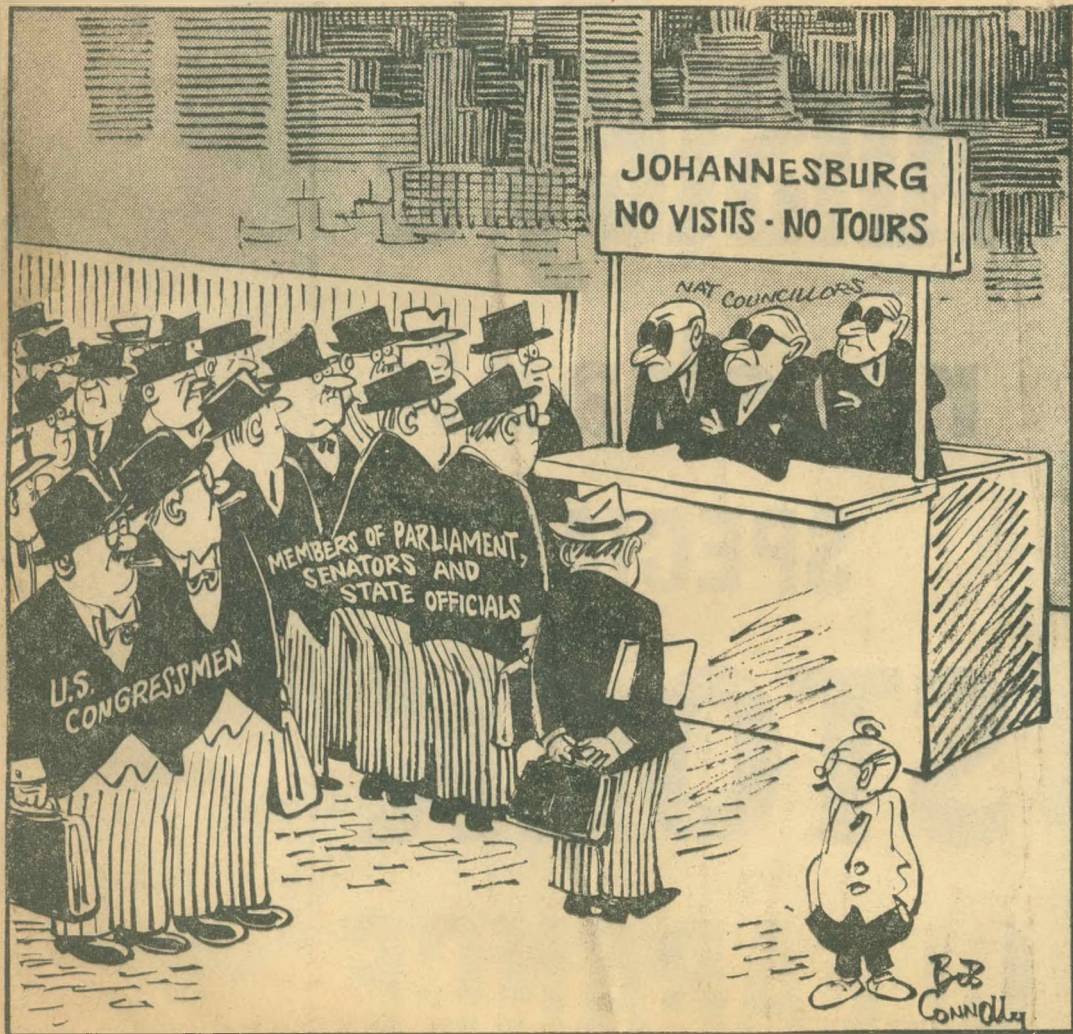
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By Bob Connolly

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Impressive

New plan for old Newtown

THE FRUITS of a project for fifth-year architecture students at the University of the Witwatersrand — bold plans for the transformation of Newtown into the most advanced urban complex in South Africa — may one day become a reality.

The Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, who visited the Department of Architecture today to study the plans, said he was highly impressed.

"The City Council holds most of the freehold title to Newtown, so there would be no great problems of expropriation," he said. "We could do a deal with people living and owning property there."

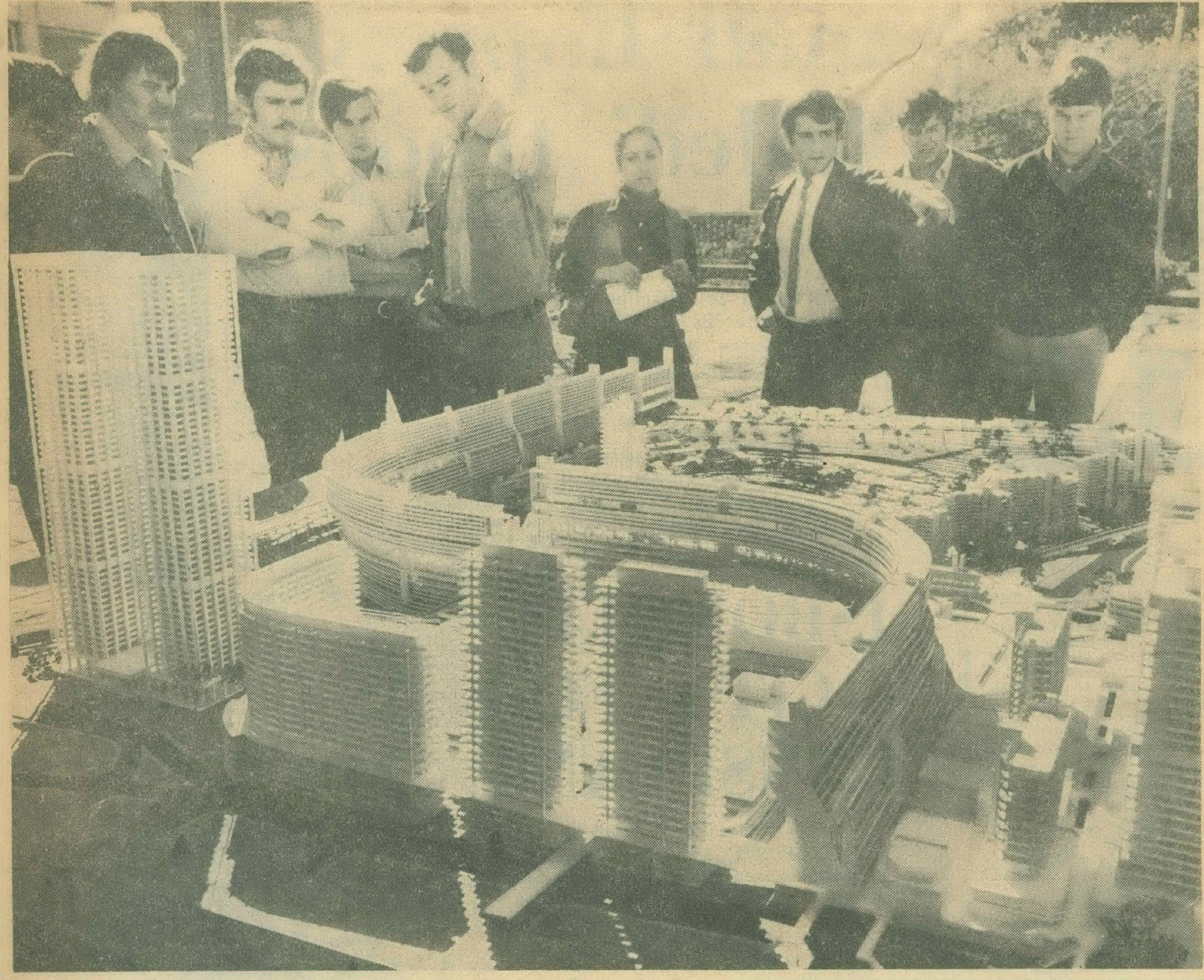
He pointed out that Newtown Market and the abattoirs were to be moved to 'City Deep, leaving these sites vacant.

"Planned randomness" to avoid monotony is inherent in the two plans, but Prof. W. D. Howie, Head of the Department of Architecture, said there was "a sufficient degree of logicity" in the plans for them to become a reality.

He said the students, who were split up into two teams to develop the schemes they thought best, had done excellent work.

While providing for a high density population — 170 people to the acre — the plans include all kinds of self-contained amenities for contented living such as parkland, a hotel, an international youth hostel, a philharmonic hall, a discotheque for the young and ample parking space in multi-storey garages for visitors and residents.

One of the plans — that of the team led by the student Mr. Mike Benedict, envisages pedestrian ways where no traffic will be allowed, vast parking garages to the north and south, a big bus terminus with the buses using the De Villiers Graaff motorway and a "city bus" system



A vast 18-storey block of S-shaped flats and a parking garage, to hold 11,000 cars, are two of the principal features of a plan produced by fifth-year architecture students of Witwatersrand University to re-design Newtown. The plan (a model of which is shown here), was one of two produced by two teams of students. Prof. W. D. Howie, head of the faculty, said of it: "There is no precedent for this plan, but the thinking behind it is based on ideas and attitudes which are prevalent in the world today."

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Soweto people want to be a Bantustan

STAR
7/8/69

WINDOW ON THE TOWNSHIPS

THE majority of the people of Soweto welcomes the suggestion that the Department of Bantu Administration should take over the running of Soweto entirely and possibly declare it a Bantustan, with more economic and other privileges.

But members of the Soweto Urban Bantu Council have up to the present remained adamant in their opposition to the whole idea.

Most outspoken among them is the chairman of the Health and Education Committee, youthful Mr. David Thebehali.

He says: "Although the details of the suggested takeover are not yet known, there is reason to be worried — mainly because of recent comments by Cabinet Ministers that Africans living in the towns and cities must look to the homelands as their real home.

"The implementation of this policy through the local authorities has already brought about hardship, and if a Government agency took over this function, it would make things worse."

Mr. Thebehali said that officials had done their utmost to bring a human approach to the question of widows' and divorcees' rights to houses, when State policy is that no woman may own a house in the townships.

The chairman of the Transport and Trade Committee, Mr. R. Maponya, said he was not at all happy about the prospect of the takeover "because Soweto people might be deprived of the right to elect their own leaders to talk for them."

The two townships of Diepkloof and Meadowlands, which are administered by a Government agency — the Bantu Resettlement Board — had neither an advisory board nor an Urban Bantu Council.

"The people there are ruled by White officials."

Mr. P. Q. Vundla, a prominent member of the U.B.C., said: "All the people who work in the city will suddenly realize for the first time that they are foreigners from a Bantustan.

"In accordance with the law, their permission to work in Johannesburg will automatically be cancelled and they will be confined to their Bantustan.

"The Government cannot

declare Soweto a Bantustan in terms of their policy anyway because too many tribes live in it."

★ ★ ★
THE move by big liquor concerns in Johannesburg to ask the Government to allow shebeen queens in a complex like Soweto to trade as businesswomen, has been greeted with resounding jubilation by Soweto illicit liquor traffickers.

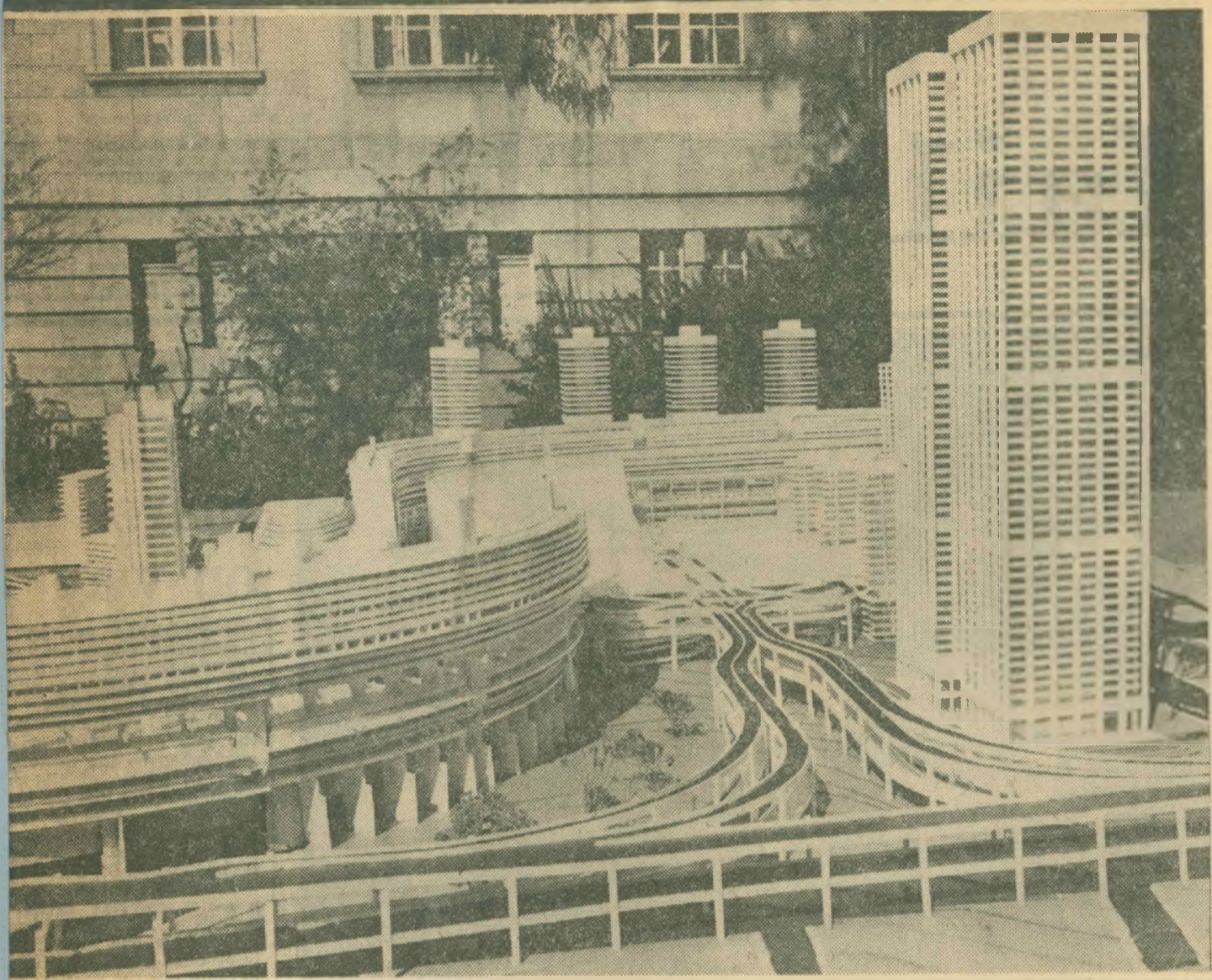
From a reliable source, I learn that the petition by big liquor companies is likely to be in the form of a memorandum which will suggest that African homeowners with premises that comply with the health regulations, be allowed to apply for licences to sell liquor.

The move should be considered as justified, it is claimed, on the grounds that an amendment to the Liquor Act which prohibits White bottlestores from delivering their wares in the African townships has adversely hit bottlestore keepers, and another specifically prohibits anyone from "introducing into a Bantu area more than two gallons of alcohol without the written permission of the police."

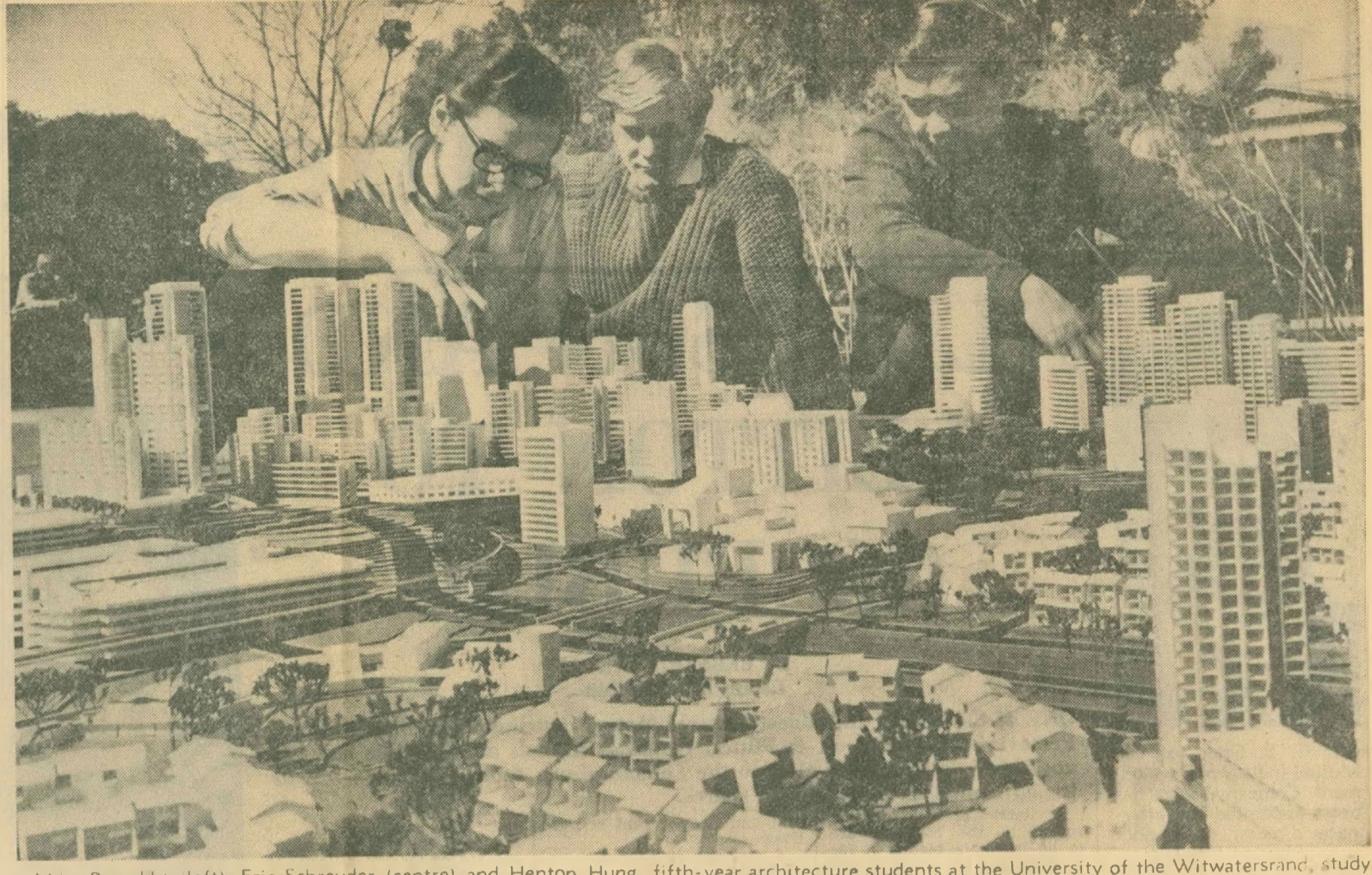
Liquor companies claim that African liquor salesmen can no longer promote their products as they fear arrest if they carry alcoholic samples into the townships.

So frequent were such arrests in recent months that a number of East Rand advisory boards decided to give priority at their last month's meetings to discussing them.

— MHLOLI



Four lanes sweep traffic from the motorway to a multi-level parking garage and an 18-storey block of flats snakes its way between the high office blocks of Newtown. This is part of the project designed by Mike Scholes and Team Two.



Mike Benedikt (left), Eric Schreuder (centre) and Henton Hung, fifth-year architecture students at the University of the Witwatersrand, study the Benedikt team's project for redeveloping the Johannesburg area of Newtown. Team One blended living and working areas with shops, a hotel, cultural facilities and transport centred for easy access.

Students plan new look for Newtown

NEWTOWN, blighted western fringe of Johannesburg's central city area, must go. The City Council has decided to do away with the power station and abattoir to City Deep. It might also relocate the bus terminal and regroup the official registration buildings. What then?

With so much land ready for fresh use, this 130-acre area west of Sauer Street will soon call not only for redevelopment but redesign, with a rare chance to escape from the old grid street pattern.

This year the Forward Planning branch of the City Council asked the University of the Witwatersrand to set the Newtown re-development as a project for fifth-year architecture students.

Clearly the city planners thought the students were worth coming back to after last year's fifth-year produced three thought-provoking

schemes for another council venture — the urban renewal of Jeppe.

The students have responded with two opposing but staggering views of what very, very bold planning could do in an area barely changed since the first small stands, small blocks and narrow streets were laid out in 1888.

A Forward Planning branch report gave the students basic data on the area, 40 per cent of which is owned by the council and 20 per cent by private owners. The area for the student project was, however, cut to 100 acres, by making the southern boundary President Street of Commissioner Street.

The students were asked to retain Bree, Jeppe, Sauer, Goch and President Streets as links between the central city and the western areas, and to link the redeveloped Newtown to Braamfontein.

They also had to provide the projected amount of office, living and shopping space, as well as parking, community centres

and a large Government precinct.

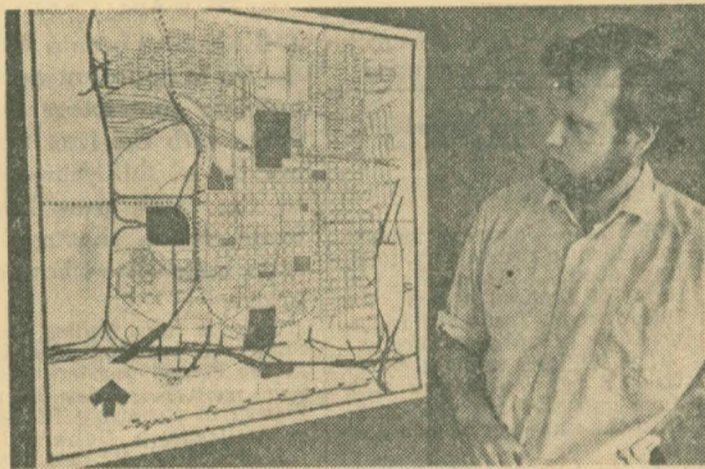
Each of the 18 students in the class — it includes one girl and two Chinese — acting as his own planning authority, had to produce site reports and a detailed land use plan and model of a scheme which could be developed by the City Council in co-operation with private enterprise.

The students were then split into teams to develop the two schemes they thought best. The designers of the two chosen schemes, Mike Benedikt and Mike Scholes, co-ordinated the students work in their successive roles as planning authorities, private enterprise and the architects commissioned by private enterprise.

Mr. U. Tomaselli and Mr. E. M. Pincus, both Wits lecturers, supervised the Project, together with Mr. C. Marshall of the City's Forward Planning Committee.

The heart of the Benedikt scheme which breaks down the present regimented city structure completely, is park land.

By LIN MENGE



Mike Scholes with the wheel of growth on which he built his scheme for Newtown.

The heart of the Scholes project, which emphasises buildings rather than open ground, is a parking garage. Both schemes, Mr. Tomaselli thought, would need tempering if put into practice.

To Mike Benedikt the most beautiful cities in the world are those where the rights of parks were guaranteed. He said of his project:

"Our basic idea was to stop decentralisation — people moving to Rosebank or beyond because of intolerable conditions in their city environment."

"There is no reason why places shouldn't be interesting and beautiful to work in. Otherwise you have the old story of the rich man who builds a beautiful house for his servants — while he works in a sausage factory."

His Newtown is carpeted with parkland instead of concrete. From the parkland rise, in the south, tall office blocks and an ultra-modern new Stock Exchange with a separate banking hall.

"The Exchange is — it was something dynamic. It called for a sculptural building," he said.

To the north of the parkland, an hotel, shops, the underground rapid transit station entrance, community and sports centres reach towards residential areas to the north-west and two large parking garages in the north-east.

An all-day school caters for the children of workers returning to live in either of the two four-storey flat schemes or in single taller blocks. There is housing for 8,000 residents.

Benedikt's team blends living and working areas, uses complexity to avoid boredom. The hierarchy of roads is so controlled that the De Villiers Graaff Motorway serves only as a bypass and Bree and Jeppe, Market and Commissioner streets are fused into two single roads to free the town of traffic movement and noise.

Mike Scholes, however, starts with the traffic nightmare and uses it to generate people and dynamism. Hub of the wheel of growth which he radiates from Newtown is a massive, multi-level parking garage for 11,000 cars.

Eight lanes of traffic can fill this garage in two hours. Four of the lanes flow horseshoe-like from the motorway, two come from the south and two lead off a new road linking Braamfontein with Newtown through an extension of West Street.

His parking garage adjoins the terminal of the rapid transit system coming south from Braamfontein. Traffic-free pedestrian ways weave away from this area.

Above the parking garage is a giant sports and exhibitions stadium, keeping great numbers of people right where their transport is.

Bree and Jeppe Streets fuse to dive beneath a commercial and cultural area which forms the transition between the office blocks to the south and the residential areas to the north. It includes shops, an hotel, a youth hostel, adult education centre, cinemas, concert halls, night clubs and discotheques.

To link Braamfontein, with its new high-rise office development and expected increase in

residential accommodation, the Scholes project snakes a vast 18-storey block of flats in a broken S-shape from one end of Newtown to the other. The S building has a pedestrian shopping way running the full length of the eighth floor.

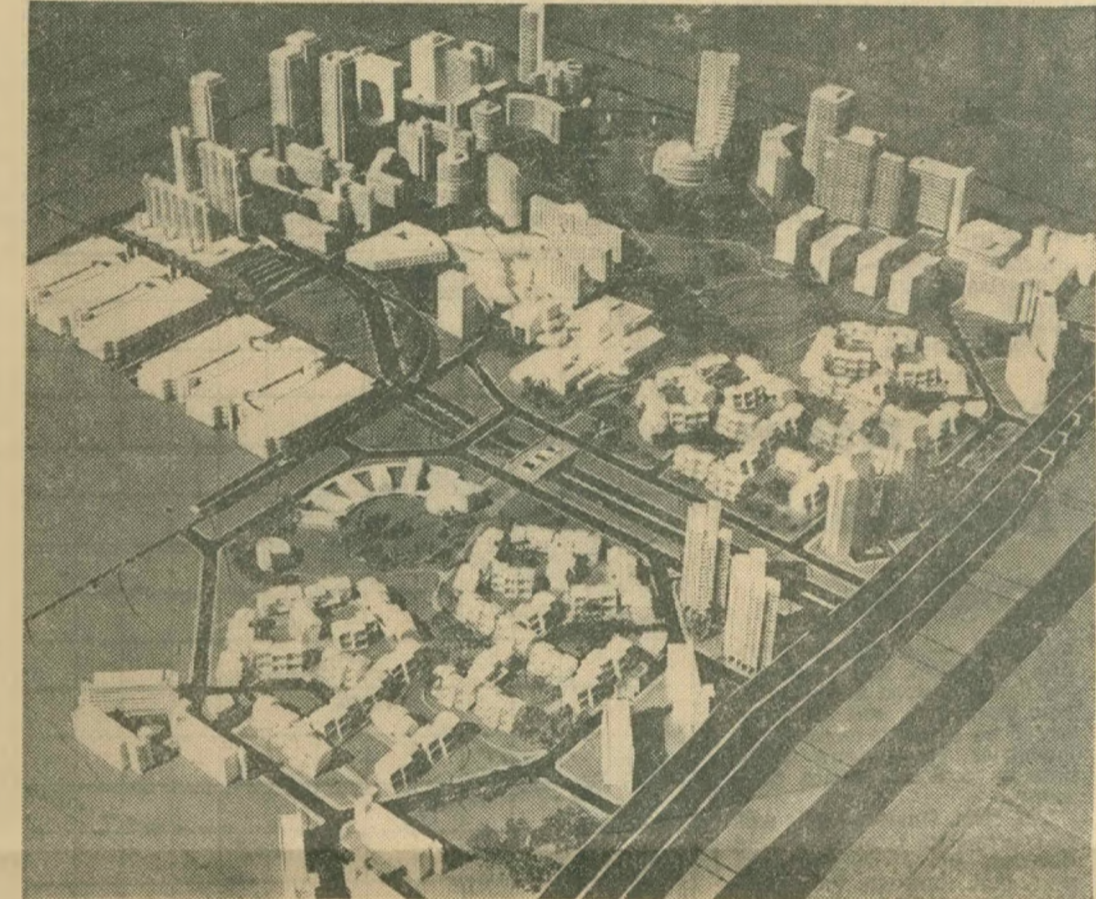
Lower blocks of flats lie in the bowl formed by the taller blocks. Centre of the bowl is an artificial lake. In all, the scheme can house up to 15,000 residents.

Scholes stresses that this would be an integrated project, with the City Council in full control.

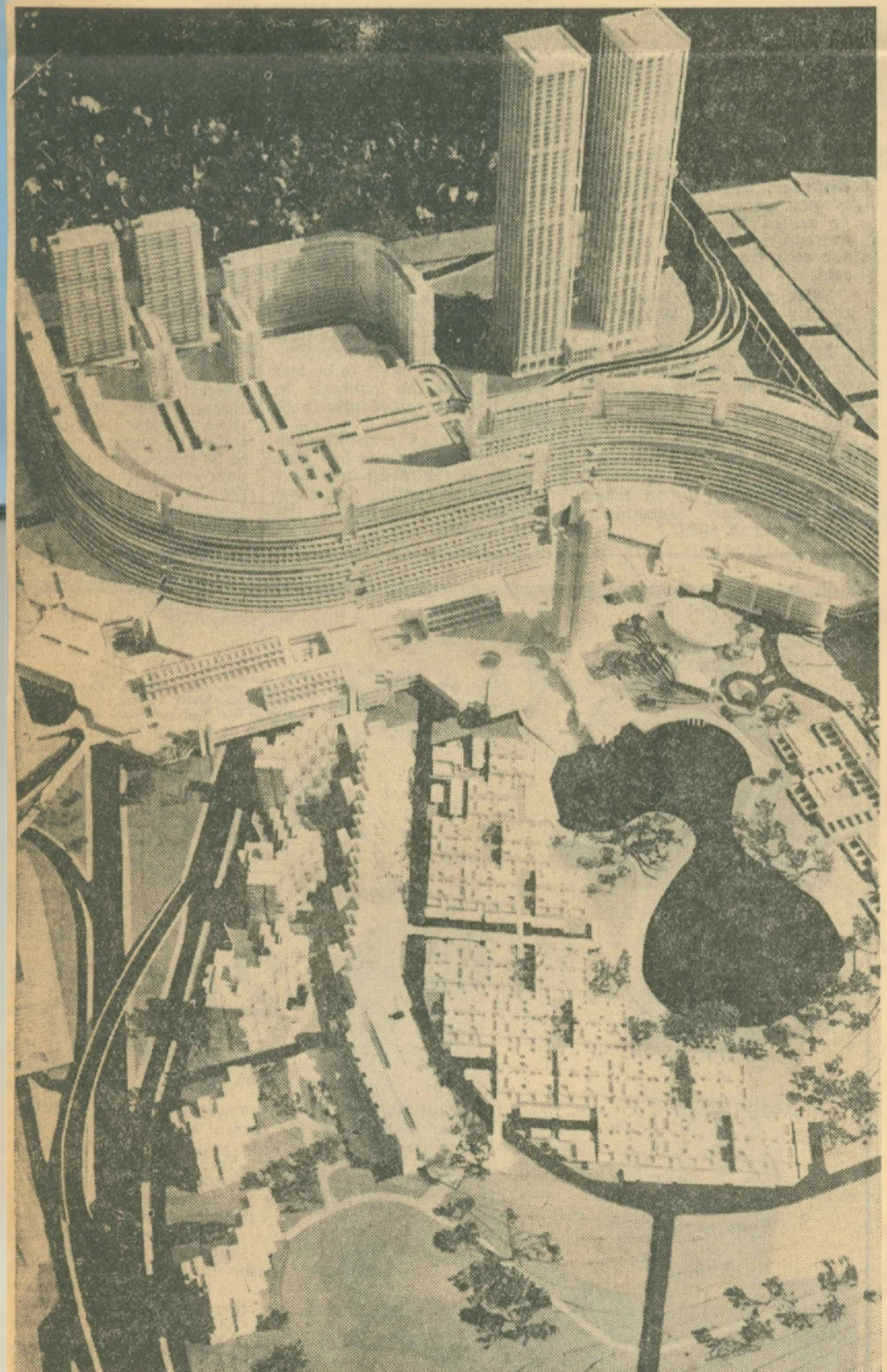
"Johannesburg is far from being an ideal city because private enterprise has been allowed the upper hand — and what private enterprise does is not for philanthropy," he said.

Although his team's project is likely to draw gasps, their thinking was firmly down-to-earth. If you want to develop a city area, Scholes reasoned, you have to lay down certain parameters which will allow for growth. This he did, with transport, parking and rapid transit.

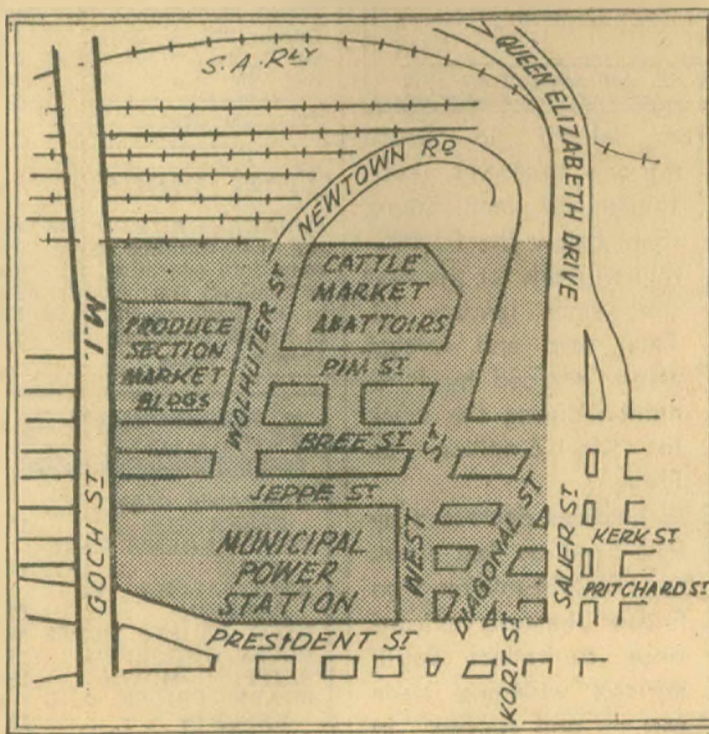
He feels it's a reasonable scheme — "not just for Newtown, but because it offers a forceful, constructive solution to the transport question and to the problem of integrating residential development into the city."



Team One grouped tall office blocks and residential buildings on a carpet of parkland. In the centre, Jeppe and Bree Streets fuse and submerge after collecting traffic from the two large parking garages to the north-east. The new Stock Exchange, with a separate banking hall, stands slightly apart in the centre of the southern boundary.



Team Two link their redeveloped Newtown to Braamfontein with a massive, broken S-curve of flats. Tall office blocks rise in the south and east. Low-rise blocks of flats lie round an artificial lake in the bowl formed by larger buildings. A tall hotel, commercial and cultural buildings link working and living areas. A new road from Braamfontein enters Newtown from the north-east.



The shaded area is the part the students had to redevelop.

R.D.M. 7/8/69.

Looking to future

Fifth-year architecture students at the University of the Witwatersrand study the project for the redevelopment of Newtown designed by Team Two, led by Mike Scholes, right. The others are, from left, R. Bramwell-Jones, H. Jacobs and A. Kwon Hoo.



STUDENTS SHOW

A NEW NEWTOWN

By CHRIS DAY
Municipal Reporter

LEADING Johannesburg administrators and architects yesterday applauded two schemes for the redevelopment of Newtown. The schemes are designed by fifth-year architecture students at the University of the Witwatersrand.

They were evolved at the request of the City Engineer's forward planning branch as a follow-up to similar schemes designed by students last year for the Jeppe urban renewal project.

The City Engineer, Mr. Brian Loffell, said yesterday the schemes could well depict the Newtown area of the future.

"The schemes put up by the students closely follow our thinking for the renewal of this area and with the co-operation of private enterprise this type of development will become a reality."

THOUGHT

Mr. Loffell said his department would make further serious investigations into the student schemes.

Mr. M. D. Lennard, a member of the Transvaal Provincial Committee of the South African Institute of Architects, said it was obvious that a great deal of work and thought had gone into the schemes.

Mr. Lennard said the students' schemes should be regarded as the pace setters for this type of re-development.

● One scheme stresses the need for a better quality of environment and is built around a large park.

● The other scheme features a giant parking garage and a huge S-shaped block of flats which has its own internal transport system.

● SEE PAGE 15

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